Fulham Chronicle

First established 1883, part of the London Weekly News group | FREE | Tuesday, March 15th 2016

Women who wow West End audiences

SEE PAGE 16

Drivers, kill your speed: it's a 20mph borough

BY JACK DIXON
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DRIVERS will be forced to kill their speed in side streets and town centres after council chiefs gave the green light to extending 20mph limits.

Supporters said that lives would be saved, as plans to slash the speed limit in Hammersmith and Fulham were finally signed off last week.

Motorists will now face 20mph zones on all the borough's residential side streets and on sections of busy town centre roads where pedestrian and cycle accidents are common.

Road safety groups have claimed that cutting speed limits will reduce the number of accidents, while clean air campaigners say the policy will help to tackle pollution as more people choose to leave their cars at home.

But critics have argued that most road accidents are not caused by high speeds and are fighting to overturn the decision.

The results of a public consultation held over the autumn revealed that 45 per cent of more than 5,000 respondents wanted 20mph limits enforced on all roads, except those managed by

TURN TO PAGE 3

■ **ON THE BALL: Fulham Football Club has announced plans to erect a statue to honour Craven Cottage legend George Cohen MBE. The former defender, now 76, made more than 450 appearances for the Whites during a distinguished playing career, which included a key role in England's famous World Cup triumph in 1966. SEE PAGE 3**
Picture: Back Page Images

NHS cuts 'may force chemists out of business'

PHARMACISTS have warned that patients in Fulham may be unable to access essential healthcare services if their funding is slashed under NHS cutbacks.

Some outlets are facing closure and others could lay off medical staff as a result of plans to save £170 million, local chemists said.

A petition has been launched by the National Pharmacy Association to rally public support against the cuts, which could lead to thousands of pounds in subsidy payments being slashed from individual pharmacies.

The NPA joined forces with the British Pharmaceutical Students Association and other bodies to collect hundreds of signatures at an event in London recently, as west London chemists step up their efforts to protect pharmacy budgets.

Sailesh Pindolia, owner of the Bush Pharmacy in Shepherd's Bush, said the plans to cut funding would "make a bad situation worse".

He added: "For the bigger multiples, it does not mean that much - they will absorb the costs. But for small independents it means possible closure. One problem is that pharmacies will lose money but more importantly patients are going to lose out."

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'Fright Tube'

A SHOCKING report looking at passengers' safety on the new Night Tube has revealed that millions of Londoners will be too scared to use it because of fears of getting attacked by sex pests and rowdy drunks.

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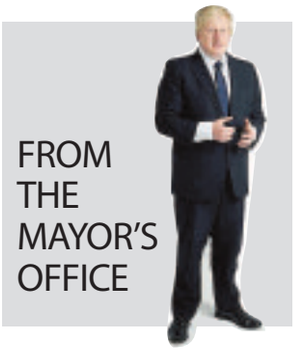
Mayor pitches in for grassroots sport



THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson has this week announced a £1.5 million investment in artificial grass pitches to boost grassroots sports across London.

The funding will kick-start the first phase of a ground-breaking programme in London and ensure the capital is at the forefront of the Football Association's five-year plan to improve grassroots facilities in England and reduce reliance on local authority subsidies.

The FA will be working with London boroughs about becoming the first in the capital to create their own hub facility to create and manage sports pitches in local communities. The idea is for a trust – consisting of representatives from the local borough, County FA and the Greater London Authority – to run the sports hubs, which would be self-sufficient with their own facilities and could host a mixture of school and community sessions during the day, youth coaching in the evening and weekends and recreational "pay as you play" sessions in the evening.

The hub trusts will then manage the ongoing development of new and existing all-weather 3G pitches for a wider community use across a number of sports.

A London-wide process is due to be launched later in the spring for boroughs to bid for investment to kick-off their hub and football pitch improvement programme.

The mayor's investment follows a commitment to deliver a grassroots legacy for Londoners when the capital hosts the semi-final and final of the 2020 UEFA European Football Championships. It is part of the mayor's £25m grassroots Sports Legacy Programme, which has invested in more than 100 sports facilities, delivered sports participation projects to in excess of 400,000 Londoners and trained 13,000 people as sports coaches, officials and volunteers in the capital since 2009.

The mayor, Boris Johnson, said: "There is no doubt we need more good quality sports pitches in London that can be used all year round and that is why I am investing to ensure the capital is at the front of the queue and reaps maximum benefit from the FA's programme.

"It makes absolute sense that the good folk who run local clubs and groups across the capital have the opportunity to have a greater say in the running of their own sports facilities and take the pressure off council budgets."

The Mayor's Sports Commissioner, Kate Hoey MP, said: "This is a great opportunity for London to secure the very best quality sports facilities for future generations to enjoy. I'm delighted the FA is prioritising London so early in their national programme and hope that we're able to bring these multi-sports hubs to communities in every corner of our city. This investment will help build much needed new artificial grass pitches as well as helping to safeguard existing grass playing areas."

The national hub facilities programme is being funded by the FA, Sport England and the Premier League, which will be delivered by the Football Foundation. As part of the programme, those funding partners will put up to 60 per cent of investment into hub sites in the capital, with the other 40 per cent coming from partners and other funding streams. The hub programme is one of the findings of the FA Chairman's Independent Commission which revealed there was a dearth of artificial pitches – particularly in London – and there is a desperate need to reduce the reliance on local authority subsidies.

FA chief executive Martin Glenn said: "We are delighted that the mayor is confirming his support for our football hubs programme in London. I commend London's commitment to a project that will lead to a step-change in the provision of grassroots football in England. Over the next four years, we have laid out the ambitious target of creating football hubs across up to 30 cities to support the delivery of FA and County FA youth development and coach education programmes and to improve the quality of grassroots provision for clubs and teams."

■ The Mayor of London's Sports Facilities Fund saw the Football Foundation develop 104 sites across the capital, with every single London Borough benefiting from GLA investment. These facilities are catering for 29 different sports and 15 per cent of participants were previously 'inactive', demonstrating how properly-targeted and delivered facilities investment can help achieve a more active population.

■ Since 2000, the Football Foundation has delivered £1.3billion of grassroots sports investment on behalf of its core funders: the Premier League, The FA and the Government/Sport England.

London sports facilities are to be improved

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Fulham Chronicle
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Council authorises more 20mph zones

FROM PAGE 1

Transport for London. A further 26 per cent were generally in favour of reducing the limit but not on some main roads, while the remaining 29 per cent did not want any new speed controls at all.

Wesley Harcourt, Hammersmith and Fulham council's cabinet member for transport, said public support for the policy was "overwhelming".

"The clear majority of residents in one of our biggest ever consultations said they support extending 20mph speed limits to reduce injuries and deaths on our streets and make our neighbourhoods more pleasant for everyone," he said. "Collisions at lower speeds are much less likely to cause deaths or serious injuries. Lower speeds are also good for reducing traffic congestion by cutting delays caused by accidents and by encouraging more people to leave the car at home, because walking or cycling become safer, more pleasant options."

Work to install signs on the borough's residential side roads is due to begin later this year, after members of the council's cabinet gave their approval last Monday (March 7).

Transport for London will cover the cost of introducing the new zones, with police set to enforce speed limit areas.

Changes to the original 'borough-wide' proposals mean several roads, including Fulham High Street, Putney Bridge, New Kings Road, Wandsworth Bridge Road, and sections of Dawes Road and Fulham Palace Road, will retain the 30mph limit.

Brian Mooney, from the No to 20mph campaign, said an official complaint about the speed limits had been made and that he would fight to overturn the decision.

He said: "Hammersmith and Fulham council's proposal for a 20mph limit 'nearly borough-wide' represents a token climbdown from the original proposal for 'borough-wide' rejected by 55 per cent of respondents.

"Its contribution to the London Mayor's casualty reduction targets is likely to be minimal. Our research shows travelling at speed was hardly a factor in road casualties. More likely factors included pedestrians dashing out, car users unthinkingly opening doors, children falling down inside a bus, and drivers misjudging turns and other manoeuvres.

"Road safety policy should be about preventing road users being hit at any speed, rather than just attempting to ensures collisions are below 20mph."

■ **WORLD OF WORK: A record number of employers made the case for a career in Fulham at one of the borough's biggest ever job fairs. Top firms including property company Rendall & Rittner, hospitality specialists Dorsett Hotels and dance school Karen Hardy Studios, exhibited at Imperial Wharf last week. Dozens of other local employers set out their stall at the annual event, which was attended by hundreds of jobseekers looking for openings in the media, health and fitness, architecture, retail and leisure industries. The fair, held at the Wharf Rooms in Imperial Road, was organised by developer St George in partnership with Hammersmith and Fulham council. Matt Bostock, St George's managing director, said: 'The Imperial Wharf job fair continues to grow in popularity each year, with a record number of exhibitors in 2016. The event also enables these local businesses to benefit from the wealth of talent in and around the borough, with the chance to expand their employee base with new recruits. St George is proud to host the important annual event, providing a vital opportunity for those seeking employment to find out more about job prospects in the local area.'**

MP declares: more homes for more of us

CHELSEA and Fulham MP Greg Hands said the home ownership "dream" was now becoming a reality, as new figures revealed that construction work on more than 500 homes in Hammersmith and Fulham began last year.

Mr Hands said support for small builders and investment in starter homes for first-time buyers had helped to deliver 280 completed homes in the borough, with work on a further 540 now under way.

In neighbouring Kensington and Chelsea, 1,120 homes were completed with another 370 started, Mr Hands added.

The Conservative minister said that people who work hard to save for and buy their own home could now "achieve their dream".

"With 90 per cent of people aspiring to own a home of their own, we are helping to make this dream a reality by building the homes our country needs," he said.

"These figures show that the reforms to the planning system are working and builders are confident in investing and building homes.

"We are determined to go even further and have doubled the housing budget to over £2 billion a year so more people have the security that comes with a home of their own."

Anniversary salute to club's hero of '66

BY JACK DIXON
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FULHAM Football Club will pay tribute to one of the game's greats – half a century after he lifted the World Cup.

Club legend George Cohen MBE is to be honoured with his own statue outside Craven Cottage, 50 years on from England's famous victory at Wembley.

Hailed by coach Sir Alf Ramsey as "England's greatest right back", Mr Cohen played all 120 minutes of the final and lifted the Jules Rimet trophy alongside Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst and Bobby Charlton.

But he is also regarded as one of Fulham's greatest sporting ambassadors after spending his entire playing career with the Whites.

The club has commissioned sculptor Douglas Jennings to create the statue, which will be unveiled at Craven Cottage in October.

Club chairman Shahid Khan said: "George Cohen and Craven Cottage are each at the heart of the history and tradition of Fulham Football Club.

"Mr Cohen continues to inspire us at Fulham, as well as everyone else who loves the game of football in England."

A key part of the Fulham back line throughout the 1960s, Mr Cohen pulled on the black and white strip 459 times and made a further 37 appearances for his country.

Now 76, he hosts his own matchday events at the Cottage and has taken on an ambassadorial role for the club in the community.

As part of the 50th anniversary World Cup celebrations, two new fundraising initiatives are being launched in Mr Cohen's name.

The club will be collecting money for dementia care and men's health programmes – and Mr Khan has pledged to match every pound that is donated.

He added: "It is only appropriate that Mr Cohen be celebrated and honoured here at Craven Cottage by the club as well as our fans who can take part in the effort to recognise a legendary member of the Fulham family and make a difference in the good causes that Mr Cohen supports."

Supporters will also be given the chance to contribute to the campaign by etching their names onto the statue's stone plinth. A brass plaque will be added to the statue featuring fans' personal engravings.

Bob Howes, chairman of the supporters' group that suggested the statue, said: "We are delighted that this honour is being paid to George Cohen MBE, a true gentleman who has given so much to the supporters of Fulham, England and the world of football."

■ **LEGEND: Fulham's George Cohen**

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Living wage: council leads by example

HAMMERSMITH and Fulham council has pledged to pay its employees the London living wage – and campaigners have urged local businesses to follow its lead.

All council staff will be paid at least £9.40 an hour, significantly higher than the national minimum wage of £6.70.

The 'living wage', which employers can sign up to on a voluntary basis, is calculated by assessing the basic costs required for people to make ends meet living in London.

The commitment will also apply to the council's third party contractors and suppliers, including care workers.

Sarah Vero, director of the Living Wage Foundation, said: "We know how challenging it is for local authorities working with the social care sector and are pleased to see that the London borough of Hammersmith and Fulham will be adopting the living wage across all contracted agencies, alongside internal staff.

"We hope that others will follow their lead and implement the voluntary living wage and help tackle poverty pay."

Father Richard Bastable, of St Luke's Church in Uxbridge Road, Shepherd's Bush, said he hoped other employers would join the council in committing to the living wage.

He said: "This will benefit their employees and local residents and set a benchmark for other employers in the borough to meet."

■ **SPEAKING OUT: Council leader Stephen Cowan and Sarah Vero, of the Living Wage Foundation, celebrate the 'fair pay' commitment with councillors, council staff and living wage campaigners**

Shock in store for the hard-up cyclist

BY JACK DIXON
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IT is thought to be the cost-effective alternative to London's expensive public transport system – but new research suggests our cramped living conditions are ramping up the price of cycling.

Pedallers living in Hammersmith and Fulham are spending an average of £37 a month on storing their bikes, according to iconic west London manufacturer Brompton Bicycle.

The high cost of living and the development of smaller properties suggests that the price of storing a bike in hallways and balconies is on the rise. Brompton Bicycle looked at purchase price data from property website Zoopla, as well as City Hall figures on Hammersmith and Fulham rents, to calculate the cost of keeping a bike indoors.

It found that more than £14,000 of the average house price covered the space a cyclist would need to store just one bike.

Howard Crosskey, from the Royal Institute of British Architects, said: "These are conservative estimates when you look at the size of new build properties particularly. With the average new build one-bedroom flat now occupying the same floor area as a tube train carriage, smart storage solutions become even more critical."

■ **ADVICE: fold-up bikes may be more cost-effective, says west London firm Brompton Bicycle**

Official Transport for London figures show that more than 600,000 cycle journeys are made every day across the capital, and the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has outlined plans designed to encourage thousands more commuters to get on their bikes.

Meanwhile, Hammersmith and Fulham council's cycling strategy aims to ensure eight per cent of all journeys in the borough are made on two wheels. But Brompton's findings suggest that many London homes are not properly equipped to provide enough space for storing bikes.

The firm suggests switching to fold-up bikes that can be stored under desks or stairwells.

Stephen Loftus, Brompton Bicycle's chief marketing officer, said: "Cycling has clear benefits to all those who live in cities. But space in cities costs money.

"Looking at the amount of square footage that is given over to store bikes, in hallways, on balconies and in other rooms, a folding Brompton bike can free up valuable space both at home and at work."

Covent Garden was found to be London's most expensive area to store a bike, with the average cost as high as £111 a month, according to Brompton's analysis.

The London Cycling Campaign has urged candidates in May's mayoral election to create more space for cyclists on main roads and junctions, to introduce a 'Mini Holland' road closure scheme in every borough and tighten safety restrictions on lorries.

Millions 'too scared to use Night Tube' says report

BY GEOFF BAKER
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A DAMNING report on passengers' safety on the Night Tube has revealed that millions of Londoners will be too scared to use it because of fears of getting attacked by sex pests and rowdy drunks.

The report by the London Assembly's Police and Crime Committee has also unearthed a Transport for London study which predicts that the number of attacks will rise when the late-night Underground service begins.

The report reveals that the number of violent and sex assaults on London transport services is already running at almost 10,000 a year and the crime committee has expressed deep concern that 38 per cent of Londoners fear that they will not be safe on the "Fright Tube".

Although British Transport Police say they will be putting 100 officers on patrol when the new night service begins, the report highlights the worry that as they will be policing 144 stations, that only provides 0.7 per cent of a policeman to every station. Most worrying is the discovery that although police and TfL have made assurances that the Night Tube will be safe, an internal TfL report says that it will not be.

"We understand that TfL's internal risk assessment states that sexual offences and other crimes are likely to increase when the Night Tube is introduced," claims the crime report. "TfL predicts that anti-social behaviour will rise, causing 'high crime levels' and a 'rowdy environment'."

The committee is concerned that huge numbers of Londoners are already too scared to use the Tube and buses at night because of the rise in the number of attacks. The report reveals that in 2014-15 there were 8,367 recorded violent attacks on the buses and trains, an average of 23 a day.

In the same year, the latest for which figures are available, there were 1,251 recorded sex attacks on buses and the Tube, an average of 24 a week.

The report states that although overall crime – including robbery, fraud, and drugs use – on public transport has fallen, "violent assaults and sexual offences have increased".

It adds: "The Night Tube is due to start running in the near future. A recent survey showed that 38 per cent of Londoners say they would feel unsafe taking the Tube late on a Friday and Saturday."

The crime committee found that irrespective of whether crime figures are up or down, the perception of many people is that late-night London transport is dangerous and frightening.

"Fear of crime on public transport is as much of a problem as crime itself. We found that there is no direct correlation between reported crime levels and fear of crime. Passengers often perceive their risk of crime to be higher than official crime statistics indicate," says the report.

Of particular concern to the crime committee is the rise in the number of sex attacks on London buses, which increased from 483 recorded offences in 2012-13 to 684 in 2014-15. The committee is unhappy that bus staff have not been trained to spot and deal with sex abuse – and that bus companies say the earliest they can give the training will be next year.

"Sarah Green, End Violence Against Women, highlighted to us the significance of the training that has been delivered to frontline transport workers about what constitutes unwanted sexual behaviour.

"However, we were informed that bus contractors have not received this training. Recognising that this is a concern, TfL told us that it has done a 'number of activities with the bus operators and the bus drivers' and that next year it is 'revamping bus driver training and will work with the bus drivers directly to make them aware of how to deal with unwanted sexual behaviour and respond appropriately.'

"The committee believes it is vital that bus drivers receive adequate training in responding to unwanted sexual behaviour as a matter of urgency."

Despite the efforts of the Met, British Transport Police, TfL and the City of London Police to work together to reduce crime on public transport, they do not have the confidence of Londoners and consequently many crimes are going unreported, it is claimed.

"Despite this positive partnership working, and falls in recorded crime, perception of the police and TfL's response to crime and anti-social behaviour has declined marginally year on year for all modes of transport. This is a concern," the report states.

"While partners are making positive strides in tackling crime on the transport network, a large proportion of crime and anti-social behaviour on public transport is not reported. This may be due to a reluctance to delay a journey, the absence of someone to report to, the belief that the report will not be taken seriously, or a lack of confidence that the offender will be caught.

"We were told that in London, in particular, 'there is also a low level of confidence in the ability of the police to process complaints and apprehend offenders, which further depresses the recording of crime and the efficient identification and treatment of offenders'."

The report adds: "Reporting disability hate crime is a particular concern. We heard from People First that disability hate crime statistics on public transport are unreliable and that more needs to be done to get the police to take incidents of hate crime seriously, as well as making it easy for disabled people and those with learning difficulties to report.

"However, the group also told us that 'even if people with learning difficulties have the confidence to report hate crimes, nothing happens afterwards so people think that there is no point in reporting.'

"We heard that even though official statistics do not show very high levels of crime on the public transport network, these do not accurately represent the total level of crime occurring – they 'play only a part of that particular challenge and there are lots of issues of unreported crime and general concerns about disorder, threat and all of those things that do not necessarily appear in the crime statistics but are concerning many people who are using the system.'

"We heard that in order to continue to tackle crime levels more must be done to increase reporting on public transport. Rachel Griffin of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust told us that 'knowing that something will be done about it and having the confidence to report has to rely on a victim of crime's belief that they will have a sympathetic, empathetic and trained response. Something that was communicating that back to people who felt embarrassed, unsure or unconfident about reporting a crime would also be quite valuable.'

"London TravelWatch also told us that many passengers assume that it is not worth reporting crime and anti-social behaviour because they doubt the authorities are interested or that action will be taken. Both the Met and BTP agree that 'much more should be done to encourage people to report serious anti-social behaviour because it is obviously a nuisance.'"

Commenting on the report, Steve Griffiths, London Underground's Chief Operating Officer, said: "The Night Tube will transform journeys for millions of people across London, boosting jobs and helping maintain London as a vibrant and exciting place to live, work and visit. Safety and security of our customers and staff remains our top priority.

"Crime on our network is at a record low for the ninth consecutive year, having fallen by over 12 per cent in the last year alone, and is one of the safest in the world. We will continue to work with the police and have more than 100 police officers on duty each night to keep people safe and secure."

He added: "When we introduce the Night Tube, all stations will remain staffed and controlled at all times when services are running and our hundreds of staff will be backed by a Police presence.

"These BTP officers will be patrolling the 144 stations that will be open throughout the night each weekend when Night Tube services begin, increasing the level of presence at each station compared to existing operating hours.

"There are currently around 700 uniformed British Transport Police personnel on the Tube and DLR, part of the 2,500 strong group of officers who work across the TfL transport network keeping customers safe.

"The Underground network is also covered by our extensive network of 12,000 CCTV cameras."

■ SAFETY PLEDGE: Transport bosses say security on the new Night Tube will be robust

■ FEARS: Many will be too scared to use the Night Tube, a report says

Check out our chicks

SPRING has officially sprung at Hyde Park Pre Prep and Preparatory Schools, as students adopt and raise a family of baby chickens.

Based on Elvaston Place in South Kensington and Connaught Village in Hyde Park, the schools joined forces with Living Eggs – an educational organisation which aims to teach children about caring for animals, the natural life cycle and where food originates – to adopt 10 unhatched Rhode Island Red chicken eggs at both sites.

After arriving at the school last week in a specially designed incubator, students were shown how to check the eggs' electronic thermostat in order to maintain the ideal temperature for a high hatch rate. They were also taught about the life cycle and embryotic development of the chicks ahead of them hatching at the school.

Webcam feeds and social media updates meant parents and students could view the incubator and monitor for any births, and students were able to regularly visit the incubator throughout the day in between themed lessons around nature and animals.

During the course of the week, all 20 chicks successfully hatched and students were then able to create a 'brooder box' complete with a heat light, bedding, food and water. After living at the school for two weeks, the chicks will then be fully adopted by pupils' families.

Hyde Park School has also launched a fish amphibian tank where pupils are able to see baby newts hatch, and will be introducing a butterfly garden over the summer months.

Hyde Park School Headmistress Hilary Wyatt said: "As a child, I grew up with all sorts of animals and have seen first-hand how truly magical children find working with them. That moment of true awe and wonder when they see a baby chick hatch helps instil sensitivity towards living things and develops an awareness of the need to care for the natural world.

"All too often, schools can get stuck in a rut when it comes to teaching – at Hyde Park School we strive to move away from clinical education and instead immerse our students as much as possible into nature.

"Getting out of the classroom and experiencing new things can be incredibly stimulating, and having partnered with Living Eggs at several schools now, it is clear the programme is a great way to teach students about birth and death, nature and how to properly take care of animals."

Vivien Stansby from Living Eggs, added: "Chickens hatching in the classroom is an exciting and inspiring project for children and adults alike. The children will see the chicks hatching two to three days after the eggs arrive, and over the next 10 days will see them grow and develop, experiencing first-hand the responsibility of caring for them."

■ HATCH OF THE DAY: Pupils and staff proudly show off their fledgling friends, tiny chicks that they are nurturing

It's official (well, sort of) – we're the best city in Europe if not the world

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDON is Europe's most economically powerful city but must position itself to succeed in a changing and growing global economy, according to a major new report published by the Mayor of London.

London: The Global Powerhouse provides a data-rich analysis of the capital's competitive position. It outlines how London ranks against other global cities and highlights the challenges and opportunities that it faces.

The report investigates the city's position in the global economy on a range of indicators and measures, including competitiveness, foreign investment, tourism, a destination for global company headquarters and major sporting events. It concludes that London outstrips Paris as Europe's leading global city due to its business-friendly approach and puts the city on an equal footing with New York on many measures.

■ VISION: Boris Johnson

While 20 years ago, London's economy was dominated by financial services, the report showcases the range of vibrant economic clusters that are now driving activity across the city. Although sectors such as law, consultancy and banking ensure London has the highest number of skilled mobile jobs of any city in the world, including New York, the capital is now also home to emerging clusters that offer huge potential in life sciences and financial technology.

The report has been written for Boris Johnson by his chief economist Dr Gerard Lyons.

Mr Johnson said: "London is a truly colossal commercial and economic dynamo, driving job creation across the country and acting as a magnet for investment and opportunity. This report proves that London is leading the way as Europe's leading city and highlights some of the factors that will determine its future success."

The city faces a number of challenges that will determine its future success, including the impact of globalisation, according to the report. It argues that the world economy is changing dramatically, with the emergence of new economic forces such as China and India, who pose both an opportunity and a threat to London's dominance. The report states that London needs to play to its economic strengths and ensure it positions itself to succeed and prosper in this changing and growing global economy.

The report also argues that the future economic and financial success of London is not reliant on whether the UK is in the European Union or not. It echoes the sentiments of *The Europe Report: A win-win situation*, which was published by the mayor in 2014 and argued that London has nothing to fear from leaving the EU and would continue to thrive.

At a regional level, the report highlights work carried out by the independent London Financial Commission which put forward the case to devolve more spending to the capital, allowing it to keep the stamp duty raised here. The report supports that call but argues that rather than concentrating on new tax raising powers for cities, the focus should be on spending money more efficiently.

Dr Lyons said: "By delving deep into the vast reams of data and surveys on global cities this report proves that London stands on an equal footing and beats almost all of its counterparts worldwide."

Landlords are less confident

THE proportion of landlords in central London who intend to sell property has quadrupled since last year's Budget, according to new research from the National Landlords Association.

Just four per cent of landlords in central London had plans to sell property when surveyed before last year's Budget. However, the figure has almost quadrupled, rising to 19 per cent, when surveyed in January this year.

The 15 per cent increase in intention to sell property is the highest witnessed across the UK over the last six months.

The restriction to mortgage interest relief for individual residential landlords – announced during last year's summer Budget – will leave many landlords worse off, forcing some basic rate tax payers into a higher tax bracket and leaving higher and additional-rate payers with considerably bigger tax bills.

The NLA has labelled the changes the Turnover Tax, because landlords' tax will be calculated on the rental income they earn, rather than their profits.

Richard Lambert, chief executive officer of the NLA, said: "We are seeing a loss of confidence across the board as many landlords realise they won't be able to remain in the market. If landlords follow through with their intentions over the coming months this could lead to a massive sale of property, as we have previously warned. However, this may not be a straightforward process, especially for those with stock in low demand areas.

"We urge those considering selling up to think about when they will need to do so, and to plan ahead now in order to minimise the risk of losing money as a result of a failure to sell".

World record, imagine that!

STUDENTS and staff at London Business School have broken a new Guinness World Record for the most nationalities singing the same popular song simultaneously.

More than 200 students, faculty and staff of 71 nationalities from around the world took part in the world record attempt, in which they simultaneously sang *Imagine* by John Lennon. Participants dressed in their home country traditional dress.

Organised by London Business School's Student Association, the world record celebrates community and diversity across the school.

Tarana Shivdasani, social affairs officer, Student Association, London Business School, said: "Our Guinness World Record showcases the diversity of the London Business School community and our communal spirit."

The record was verified by a Guinness World Record adjudicator and independent stewards, who were at London Business School, which has buildings in Regent's Park and Taunton Place.

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Boris opens door to 24,500 new homes

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AMBITIOUS plans to provide 24,554 new homes and create new neighbourhoods across the capital were unveiled this week.

London mayor Boris Johnson has pledged an additional £200million to designate another 11 housing zones, which stretch from Havering to Kingston and Enfield and bring the total number planned in London to 31.

The mayor says the aim is to boost housing supply, stimulate building and produce the new low-cost homes London needs to meet its growing population. The 31 zones are estimated to deliver 77,000 new homes, of which 34 per cent will be affordable, alongside transformational regeneration of key town centres, train station hubs and housing estates.

Mr Johnson made the announcement as he officially opened a new affordable housing development in the heart of London's West End. Trenchard House, spanning across Broadwick and Hopkins Street, is a former derelict Metropolitan Police hostel, on Greater London Authority-acquired land released by the mayor. The site has undergone a £54 million redevelopment to build 78 new homes, including 65 affordable one to three bedroom apartments.

The affordable apartments are known as intermediate rent, with some offered at 75 per cent discount to market rates. Exact rents are based on residents' incomes, and many of them work night shifts in the theatres and bars surrounding Soho and will now be within walking distance of their jobs.

The site, which had lain vacant for almost 13 years, is one of the 414 hectares of land transferred to the mayor with every surplus site owned by City Hall now released for development. The intermediate homes are part of the 100,000 affordable homes the mayor is on track to deliver by the end of his term.

Mr Johnson said: "Meeting the unprecedented demand for housing after 30 years of historic failure to build new homes is a critical issue affecting the capital. That is why I have led an enormous programme of regeneration with my 31 housing zones that will transform communities across London, creating nearly 80,000 new homes, plus new transport hubs and schools.

■ **KEY DEVELOPMENT: A new affordable housing project at Trenchard House was opened last week by the mayor**

"This fantastic new housing development in the heart of the West End is delivering a lifeline to hard working local people who were priced out of Soho and desperate to reside nearby their places of work. These apartments are just some of the 100,000 new affordable homes being delivered over my two mayoral terms. This site forms part of more than 400 hectares of developable land the GLA inherited and which I have now released every inch of, to ensure as many homes as possible are built throughout London."

Dolphin Living have partnered with Barratt Homes to provide the development and have worked with Westminster Council to ensure that the intermediate rent homes are prioritised for local people on housing waiting lists. The lower rents mean that people earning the London living wage can rent properties (minimum annual incomes of £24,000). Some three bedroom apartments (with a rent of £202 per week) represent a 75 per cent discount from local market rents.

Jon Gooding, chief executive of Dolphin Living, said: "We all recognise that there is a growing disconnect between wages within central London, and market rent, and we at Dolphin think it is crucial that we continue to provide good quality rental accommodation for those workers who keep this city alive.

"It is for this reason that we've sought to ensure that we have new homes to rent at discounts of up to 75 per cent of the market rate, and ones that will be affordable for couples earning the new national living wage.

"This scheme has been a fantastic opportunity for Dolphin Living to deliver genuinely affordable housing for working people, on a site formerly owned by the public sector, which had lain dormant for years in one of London's most high profile cultural and social quarters.

"Number 2 Hopkins Street provides a rare, but a fantastic opportunity for those working in, and around the area of Soho to reside here as well."

One new resident who has just moved in with her partner, said: "We couldn't be more pleased as we are now both a few minutes' walk from work and feel extremely lucky to have found such a lovely, spacious flat in the middle of Soho which despite the extraordinary prices of the local housing market, is actually affordable for us."

The mayor's office said: "As part of the mayor's commitment to double housebuilding, London's housing zones will unlock massive regeneration on hundreds of hectares of brownfield land across the capital. The special status has been awarded to areas identified and packaged up by local authorities. It removes all unnecessary planning restrictions, combined with the funds to maximise development, and fast track homes and supporting infrastructure."

■ **IT'S A KNOCKOUT: Non-contact boxing sessions attracted plenty of support**

Boxing sessions prove a big hit

MORE than 100 people punched in to jab and hook when a new Westway Trust project to bring boxing to North Kensington began last week.

British Lionhearts in the Community, a project to engage London communities in non-contact boxing activities, spent an afternoon giving free lessons under the market canopy at Portobello Green.

Currently there is only one amateur boxing club in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea but British Lionhearts' free coaching proved so popular with men and women of all ages that now the sessions are to become a regular event.

The organisation also ran sessions at Kensington Leisure Centre and at Sion-Manning Catholic Girls School, where Natasha Jonas, the first British woman to ever box at the Olympics met the pupils.

"British Lionhearts in the Community and Westway Trust will now be working together to bring the non-contact boxing sessions to Westway sports and fitness centres on a regular basis," said a Trust spokesman.

Richard Powers, from British Lionhearts in the Community, said: "We think there's a huge demand for non-contact boxing sessions from all ages and types of people. At other sessions we've had three generations of women from the same family coming along. We're looking forward to working with Westway Trust in the future to bring more amateur boxing to the borough."

One resident, Christina, who took part in one of the sessions, said: "I had a great time boxing, I never thought it could be so much fun and tiring. New respect for those boxers out there! I feel like I've had a full body workout. I'd definitely recommend it to anyone."

Stephen Wren, director of sport at Westway Trust, added: "It was great to see so many people getting active and trying a new sport. Westway Trust is committed to creating more opportunities for people to be more active, particularly those who might normally miss out like older and younger people.

"I hope that by working with great organisations like British Lionhearts in the Community we can open up more ways for people to get active under and around the Westway."

John Parnham's Children's Fun Fair in partnership with h&f hammersmith & fulham

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Residents and traders help shape future of the Westway

UNDER THE WESTWAY

Angela McConville, Westway Trust Chief Executive, McConville explains how the Trust are collecting community input to proposals for the area of the Westway estate around Portobello Road

IN recent weeks I've used this space to talk about the big picture of what Westway Trust aims to do – stimulate enterprise and economic vitality, support health and wellbeing, champion local arts, heritage and community activity, and contribute to environmental improvements – and to seek your input into how we go about partnering with the local community to achieve these aims.

This week I want to talk about the project that's had the working title of 'Portobello Village' and how we're working with local residents, market traders, business owners, community groups and charities to make big improvements to this part of the estate for the benefit of North Kensington.

The area of the Westway estate that sits either side of Portobello Road and includes the vintage market, the covered shopping arcade, Portobello Green, Acklam Village, a small car park and various shops and restaurants is one of the most recognisable parts of the estate.

It's a key part of keeping the area vibrant and when the traders and retailers that help give it so much life told us that their businesses were struggling and the area needed work to bring it to life we wanted to respond.

We spent a long time consulting those who would be affected and developing proposals to share with the community.

Many of you will remember the initial drawings that we published and the response to them. There were significant criticisms of those early ideas and how they were communicated so we took a step back and listened again.

The message that came through loud and clear was that people valued the area and wanted it protected and that doing nothing and letting it slowly decline as visitor numbers dropped and businesses regularly changed hands was not an option.

Your number one concern when we started this process was the continued presence of the vintage market so we plan to add more facilities for the traders and introduce measures to increase the number of people visiting the market.

The passion for more arts and community activities in the area also sung out in your feedback so we've added two new flexible spaces that will be able to serve the needs of many different parts of the community. Equally we know that the open spaces aren't as welcoming as they should be, with few people choosing to dwell for long in the Portobello Green park, so we are creating plans to open that up and bring more activity to that vital green space.

We also want to improve the public realm more generally in the area to create more open, better quality public spaces that can support trade and activities.

Throughout the process we've continued to meet with local community groups and activists to seek their input. We're also in regular conversation with the Royal Borough and Transport for London to make them aware what the community wants and ensure their support for what we're proposing. Before we finalise the next stage of proposals and ask for feedback on them from the community we are conducting another round of conversations with local residents.

Members of my team will be going door to door in the area around the Westway to check that we've understood your feedback correctly, that the principles of what we are proposing are in-line with community priorities, and to ask what people want to see realised in the new cultural and community spaces.

The guiding principles we've distilled from this consultation process have had a positive response amongst many local groups. In recent weeks we've provided updates to the Market Streets Action Group and to our member organisations – and their responses have been encouraging, with some really constructive further feedback.

So I'm confident that as we knock on nearly 2,000 doors in the coming weeks we're heading the right direction, and I look forward to hearing what you think.

If we don't manage to speak to you at home or reach you directly another way that doesn't mean we don't want to hear from you. You can call us, visit us, email us or keep looking on our website and social media for other ways to get involved.

■ **COMMUNITY VISION: Westway Trust has consulted widely with the people of North Kensington**

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	38 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Coach & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lupus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Phillmore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road	SW6 5NX

Hammersmith CHRONICLE pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane	W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road	W12 9AS

Green hopeful pledges to protect arts

SIAN Berry, the Green Party candidate for Mayor of London, is promising to rewrite London's planning rules to protect fringe and other arts venues.

If she is elected mayor she will also set up a register of spaces in empty buildings to provide a home for arts and cultural organisations under threat from property speculation.

And she will boost small arts organisations and emerging artists with new advertising policies on London's transport network. These will include a requirement that digital advertising space in Tube stations is dedicated to art projects for one minute every hour.

She said: "The West End and major players such as the Royal Opera House continue to earn global admiration. But despite great initiatives such as live streaming to cinemas, those venues remain largely off-limits to most Londoners.

"For people on ordinary incomes, the premises that matter more are fringe theatres, music venues and local arts centres – many of which are currently battling to stay open in the face of rising rents or predatory property developers. This squeeze is in danger of the stifling the grassroots creativity for which London has been justly renowned for generations. We have to think about values other than profit in this great capital of ours."

Pharmacists warn against NHS cuts

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

PATIENTS may be unable to access essential healthcare services if pharmacy funding is slashed in the latest wave of NHS cutbacks, west London chemists have warned.

Pharmacy owners said some outlets were facing closure and others could lay off medical staff as a result of plans to save £170 million.

Almost 1,000 visitors to the Elephant & Castle shopping centre in South London signed a petition launched by the National Pharmacy Association against the proposals.

Now west London's pharmaceutical community is seeking to rally public support behind the campaign.

Chris Soteriou, owner of DR Evans Pharmacy in Notting Hill, said he was concerned about cuts to the payments pharmacies receive to subsidise the cost of dispensing prescriptions.

"Once you have cut all the dispensing payments, pharmacies will be unviable," he said.

Mr Soteriou has run the pharmacy in Elgin Crescent since 1989 and has written to local MP Victoria Borwick and Kensington and Chelsea councillors to seek support in defending the business from cuts.

He warned against the possibility of moving the work of dispensing prescriptions to centralised 'hubs', which could lead to vulnerable patients facing longer journeys.

"I think it will put people's health at great risk because some people are totally reliant on us to pick up their medicines from their local pharmacy," he added.

"We deliver to patients, we request medicines for them, we chase up doctors. There is a lot of work that we do which goes unnoticed and will only be realised once we are gone."

■ HEALTHY DEBATE: Campaigners collecting signatures at Elephant & Castle shopping centre

■ LOBBIED: A concerned pharmacist has written to Victoria Borwick MP

The Department of Health has revealed plans to cut funding for independent pharmacies from £2.8 billion to £2.63 billion a year.

The announcement has sparked warnings that some pharmacies will be forced to close or offer a reduced service.

Sailesh Pindolia, owner of the Bush Pharmacy in Shepherd's Bush, said the plans to cut funding would "make a bad situation worse".

He added: "For the bigger multiples, it does not mean that much – they will absorb the costs. But for small independents it means possible closure.

"One problem is that pharmacies will lose money but more importantly patients are going to lose out.

"[The Department of Health] is trying to reduce waiting times by sending patients to us but we will not have time for them. The problem they are trying to fix, they are only going to make worse."

The NPA joined forces with the British Pharmaceutical Students Association and other bodies to collect hundreds of signatures in London recently.

Claire Ward, chair of the Pharmacy Voice campaign, said it was not surprising that pharmacies were speaking out against "rash cuts being imposed with little notice and scant regard for consequences".

Chloe Hicks, who has been a customer at DR Evans for almost 20 years, said the pharmacy had saved her life during a serious bout of depression.

She said she relied on DR Evans for medicines relating to her kidney problems and frequent fits linked to a head injury.

"Chris usually works late and is often still there at 8pm before he goes on his rounds to deliver to people who have not been in. He has been known to pick people up off the floor and call ambulances," she said.

"I do not know what I would do without them. They patch me up and send me home, and they do that for a lot of people.

"There have been times I have not wanted to go on but they have really kept me alive."

Dr Keith Ridge, chief pharmaceutical officer at the Department of Health, said: "We must ensure we are efficiently allocating NHS funding, and that the system delivers value for patients and the taxpayer."

Copies of the NPA's petition are available to sign at the Colville Health Centre in Kensington Park Road.

Medics pioneer 'wireless' heart pacemakers in west London

PATIENTS with heart problems could soon be fitted with "wireless" pacemakers, thanks to an innovative new trial at a west London health trust.

Doctors at the Imperial College NHS Trust, which runs the Hammersmith and Charing Cross hospitals, said the technology represented a "major advancement" in pacemaker design that would reduce patients' risk of infection.

Standard pacemakers are designed to emit an electrical pulse when the heart is beating too slowly.

Typical models have a generator that is fitted in the chest with leads running through a vein into the heart.

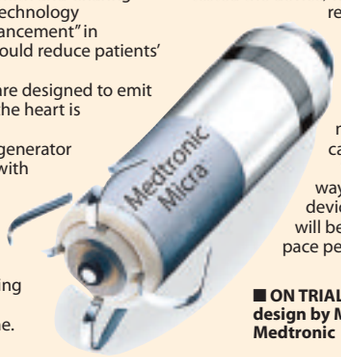
But experts have now perfected a new design that does not require a generator or leads, reducing the risk of infections and speeding up recovery time.

The Micra Transcatheter Pacing System is only 24 millimetres long and is implanted directly into the heart muscle via a vein in the leg.

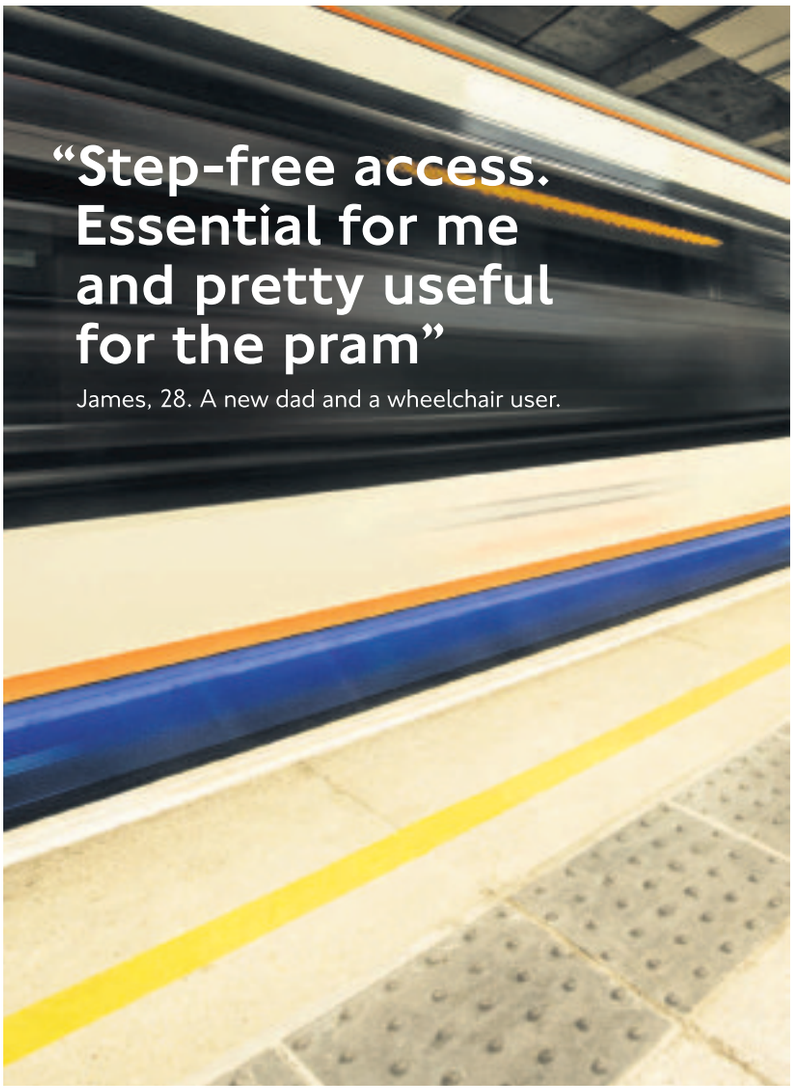
Two patients at the Imperial College Trust tested the device, which is also expected to reduce discomfort and scarring for patients.

Imperial College cardiologist Dr Zachary Whinnett said: "Wireless pacemakers signify a major advancement in cardiac pacing.

"We are helping to lead the way in mainstreaming these devices which I hope in time will become the standard way to pace people's hearts."



■ ON TRIAL: The new pacemaker design by Minneapolis company Medtronic



Accessibility updates and a number of step-free route options mean James can take his son to see his grandparents every weekend. To see his full story search TfL Accessibility and see if you could take more journeys than you think.

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MAYOR OF LONDON

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ROYAL LONDON

Royal drama: Have BBC's bosses lost their heads?

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

HELL-BENT on improving its relations with Kensington Palace, the BBC is poised to go a funny way about it by commissioning a new drama in which The Queen dies, Prince Charles abdicates, tanks are used to protect the royal family against rioters as Prince Harry is drawn into a sex scandal and the Duchess of Cambridge is painted as an effing and blinding Lady Macbeth.

After seeing the contracts to cover many royal events awarded to rivals ITV – including the recent Prince's Trust anniversary film, The Queen's 90th birthday party at Windsor and a special coming documentary in which the Duchess of Cambridge gives an exclusive interview about living with her mother-in-law – the BBC is set to not exactly improve its standing at the palace with a television adaptation of the controversial play *King Charles III*.

That the play depicts Duchess Kate as a poisonously-ambitious and foul-mouthed schemer is not expected to help much.

King Charles III has been well-known to theatre-goers since it premiered at the Almeida Theatre two years ago.

Although it was praised highly by the critics, *The Daily Telegraph's* Charles Spencer noted, "I would deferentially suggest that the Prince of Wales gives it a miss".

But there is a big difference between a production for the theatre and the same adapted for television and the palace may be dismayed that the provocative and contentious drama is to be now revealed to millions with a new version for BBC2.

The new drama was announced by Charlotte Moore, BBC Controller of TV channels, who noted that "risk taking, innovation and originality has to apply to everything we make".

There is certainly no absence of risk in the BBC's commissioning, indeed it could even lead to a writ.

When the play first went on in the West End, the *Daily Mail's* theatre critic Quentin Letts noted: "By the end, Kate is snarlingly 'vile and nasty' — as nakedly greedy for royal power as one of Lear's bad daughters. Traditionally, royals don't sue, but if a theatre tried to portray any other living person in such a light, it might well find itself on the sharp end of a defamation action."

The royals will not be portrayed at their best in the production, which includes scenes of Prince Harry going on all-night benders to clubs and a kebab house after falling for a republican girl, the Duchess of Cornwall slapping Prince William during a row, and Kate dropping the f-bomb as she fights dirty to preserve the sovereign birthrights of her husband and son.

The drama centres on Charles clashing with the Government after he refuses to sign a Bill that would limit the freedom of the press. When the Prime Minister reacts by threatening new laws clipping the royals' wings, Charles dissolves Parliament, causing riots in the streets of London as tanks and armed guards are lined up to defend Buckingham Palace.

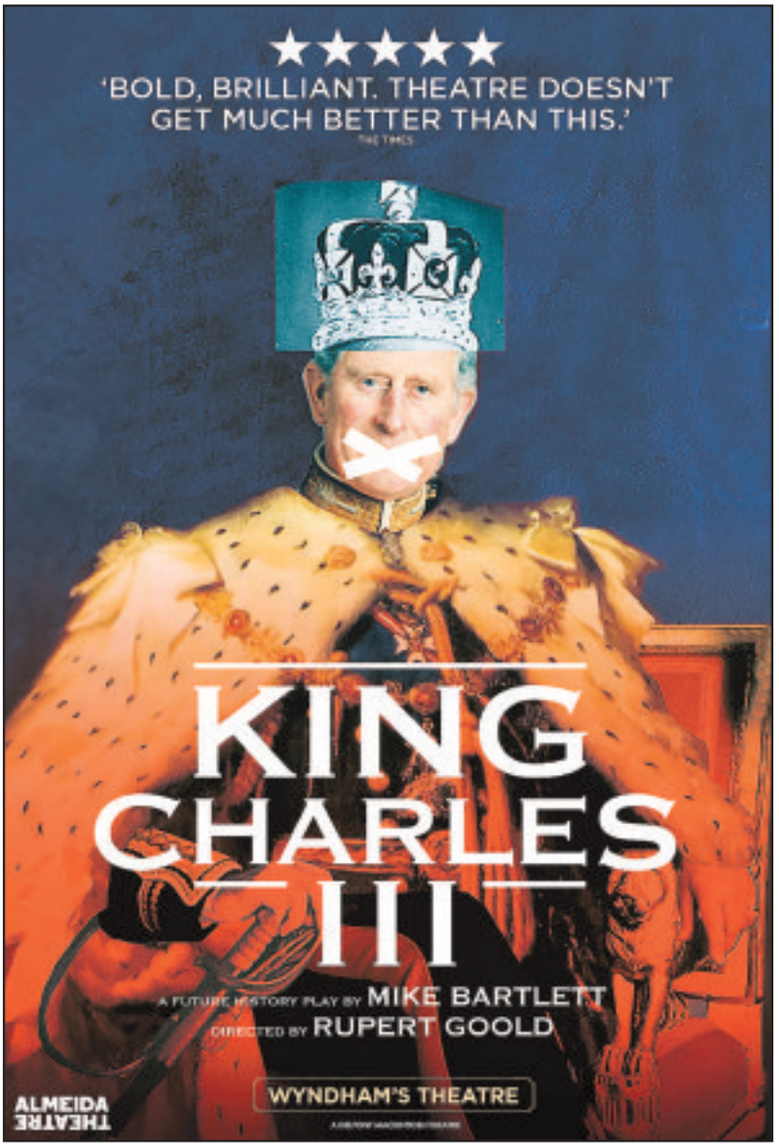
As civil war looms, Kate stiches up Charles in a secret, William-promoting deal with politicians that drives the king to fury, making him abdicate and leaving the throne for his son.

Happy families it is not and one shouldn't imagine that the BBC will win too many royal exclusives after it is screened later this year.

Although the play's creator Mike Bartlett is very happy about the sensitive screening.

"I'm so excited to bring *King Charles III* to BBC Two. The play has always had the ambition to be an ambitious, provocative, yet popular national story, written to explore the possibilities and contradictions of a figure and a family that we all think we know so well.

"It can now reach a wider, national audience," said Mr Bartlett as his and Ms Moore's chances of knighthoods went flying out of the window.



■ ROYAL CONTROVERSY: The play King Charles III

Birthday party patriotism collides with EU referendum

IS Downing Street taking a huge risk by setting the date for the In-Out, do the hokey-cokey, Euro vote so close to The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, and will Her Majesty now come under pressure to be seen out wearing a beret this summer?

Will Prince Charles be leaned on by Whitehall express a love of onions and Beaujolais? Or can a large number of members of other royal families of Europe be expected to "just happen" to pop over to London in the spring and early summer, ostensibly to wish Her Majesty many happy returns?

If the huge crowds and celebrations for The Queen's golden and diamond jubilees are an indicator, No 10 may have dropped a clanger by calling for the vote to be held on June 23, less than a fortnight after the nation celebrates Her Majesty's birthday.

This is because such royal anniversaries have historically stoked up proud feelings of Britishness and analysts are wondering whether a hangover from the national partying scheduled for June 10 to 12 may leave us feeling more nationalistic than internationalistic, and therefore more likely to vote No to staying in Europe.

■ PATRIOTIC FERVOUR: Flag waving for the Queen's birthday will coincide with the EU vote

Anyone who was in the massive crowds in the Mall for the jubilee events of 2002 and 2112 will remember that there weren't a lot of European flags getting waved in the sea of Union banners and if a similar pride of Britain overwhelms us this year, the Brexit that Downing Street fears could become a reality.

Although both No 10 and Buckingham Palace insist that The Queen will remain strictly neutral in the matter of Europe, those of us with bells on the other one do not underestimate the importance to both sides of even the slightest indication of Her Majesty's private view, especially as the level of political argument about Europe has descended to the level of "you smell because you do".

However, following the political row in 2014 which followed The Queen's alleged comment that the Scots needed to "think very carefully" about independence and the recent disquiet over Prince William's reported signalling in favour of Europe, let alone the current ruck with The Sun over the claim that Her Majesty is taking carpentry lessons in order to construct a 'frogs out' barricade at the Palace, or some such, the spin doctors will want to resist any overt signs of favouritism by the royal family, like the Duke of Edinburgh wearing lederhosen for the Trooping of the Colour.

Royal watchers suspect that Downing Street will instead try to encourage more subtle displays of royal European unity. For instance, a planned State Visit to London by Spain's glamorous King Felipe and Queen Letizia was due to happen around now but it was postponed because of political difficulties at home in Madrid. It may be more advantageous for the In campaign if the visit is rearranged for some time between May and June when the 90th birthday fervour is in full swing. Similarly, it would not astonish those who doubt that the In-Out battle will be fought on an even playing field if the royal families of Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands were highly-visibly seen to visit London laden with birthday prezzies.

Those of an especially-suspicious nature might equally not be astonished if, as a for instance of the sort of smoke and mirrors PR which is expected to come into play, the unbelievably-glamorous Princess Charlotte of Monaco also may just happen to be in town to pay her respects.

It would not take a genius publicist to imagine the huge pro-Euro news coverage which could be gained if William, Kate and Harry were to take Gucci model Charlotte, the stunning daughter of Princess Caroline, out on the town with her comedian partner Gad Elmaleh, perhaps with the Windsors' much removed and dashing cousins Prince Nikolaos and Princess Tatiana of Greece and Denmark in tow, to cement a winning impression of Europe's most glamorous young royals united.

Such a PR tactic could prove more advantageous for the In brigade than the subtle-as-a-mallet stunt seemingly dreamt up by the Foreign Office last year, when everyone including Blind Pew spotted the ostensible intervention of Government policy in The Queen's speech during her visit to Germany, when she announced to a banquet in Berlin the "division in Europe is dangerous", a claim which of course had nothing whatsoever to do with Downing Street.

One can hear the late-night brainstorming already: "Now Kate in lederhosen, that'd work…"

Ascot treat is a racing certainty

AS one of the world's most prestigious horse races, the Ascot Gold Cup, is [sort-of] renamed in honour of Her Majesty's 90th birthday, hopes are riding high that this year The Queen will at long last be crowned with a Derby winner.

But such a win could be a disaster for the bookies, who currently face the prospect of one of their biggest pay-outs of Her Majesty's entire reign if she enters one of the horses in the field for the race she has yet to conquer.

As one of the most successful racehorse owners in history, The Queen has won more than 1,600 races, including every one of the five British Classic Races, with the exception of the Epsom Derby.

The closest she has come to winning the great classic was in her coronation year, 1953, when her horse Aureole finished second to Pinza.

But now punters are hoping that this could be Her Majesty's big year at the Derby, a prospect that could unnerve the bookies.

"It would of course be entirely fitting if one of The Queen's horses won the Derby in this of all years, but the very thought of that could terrify the bookies because if she puts in a horse half of the nation will back it as a birthday nod to Her Majesty," said a tipster.

"Racing is the great joy of Her Majesty's life and a Derby

■ BIG RACE: Ascot Gold Cup

winner in her 90th year would top it off wonderfully, but the pay-out could be unprecedented. If she enters a horse it will become the people's favourite and the odds will be slashed like never before."

Meanwhile, to honour Her Majesty's 90th, the Ascot Gold Cup is to be renamed to, er, the Gold Cup.

Johnny Weatherby, Her Majesty's representative at Ascot, said: "We are delighted to be celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday in the race title of the Gold Cup. The Gold Cup, recently won of course by The Queen herself, is the historic centrepiece of Royal Ascot, and is very much the race which resonates most with the public."

In 2013, The Queen made history when she became the first ever monarch to win the Ascot Gold Cup with her horse, Estimate. It was the first time in the race's 207-year history that it a reigning monarch had won the race.

During her reign, the Queen has had a total of 22 wins at Royal Ascot, with her first win back in 1953, with the horse Choir Boy. In 1954 and 1957, she was named British flat racing Champion Owner, the first reigning monarch ever to do so twice.

But now all eyes are on the Derby and an announcement on whether The Queen will be making a challenge for that elusive special win is expected soon.

■ CROWNING GLORY: There is talk that a compromise re-write could be in store for the national anthem

From bad to verse: will the national anthem be sentenced to death?

BY GEOFF BAKER
geoff@londonweeklynews.co.uk

AS Labour MP Toby Perkins vows to continue his campaign for *God Save The Queen* to be ditched as England's national anthem, there is talk that a compromise re-write could be in store – with a re-wording of the second verse which even some royals think is a bit *uh-oh*.

Prince Charles has admitted that the words to the contentious second verse are somewhat dodgy, a feeling shared by his grandfather.

Royal biographer Alan Michie revealed that when the first General Assembly of the UN was held in London in January 1946, in honour of the occasion King George VI "ordered that the belligerent imperious second stanza of God Save the King to be rewritten to bring it more into the spirit of the brotherhood of nations." But 70 years on and a re-write has still yet to be arranged. Consequently those who are uneasy about the wording still have to endure the possibility that enthusiastic monarchists may take occasions like Her Majesty's forthcoming 90th birthday as a good reason to embarrassingly lurch into the little-sung second verse which bullishly casts republicans like Jeremy Corbyn as unscrupulous.

O Lord our God arise,
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall:
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On Thee our hopes we fix:
God save us all.

However, critics of the offending stanza – described by Prince Charles on the occasion of his mother's Golden Jubilee as "the politically-incorrect second verse" – should perhaps consider themselves fortunate that the nation no longer sings alternative verses which used to be popular.

One such was the verse penned in 1745 on the eve of Field Marshal George Wade's move to put down the Jacobite uprising and demolish Hadrian's wall. Although the lyrics were still in print up until 1926, we can imagine the outrage they could cause if sung today:

Lord, grant that Marshal Wade,
May by thy mighty aid,
Victory bring.
May he sedition hush,
and like a torrent rush,
Rebellious Scots to crush,
God save the King.

We can also imagine the fit that it would cause in Whitehall if tradition was so pedantically invoked as to include another verse that was added around that time, the one that damns the clergy as dishonest too:

From France and Pretender
Great Britain defend her,
Foes let them fall;
From foreign slavery,
Priests and their knavery,
And Popish Reverie,
God save us all.

Although Mr Perkins' Bill was talked out of any chance of debate in Parliament recently, the Member for Chesterfield says his fight will go on, insisting that a move to drop God Save The Queen is not about undermining the monarchy.

"I'm sure the monarchy is as aware as the rest of us that the issues of Britishness are quite sensitive," says the campaigning MP, "if England is being seen by the other home nations as having procured what is the British national anthem, that is potentially very damaging."

However, the smart money is running on *God Save The Queen* remaining the national anthem but that it will be tweaked to remove mention of knavery when Charles becomes king.

Where to see a royal

FULL details of events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of the Royal Family are available from the official website *www.royal.gov.uk* but here's their schedule for the week ahead

March 15

■ ***The Duke of Edinburgh***, as Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend Receptions for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award, at St James's Palace.

■ ***The Countess of Wessex***, as Patron, Tomorrow's People, will attend a Women of Achievement Lunch at the Caledonian Club, Halkin Street.

■ ***The Countess of Wessex***, as Patron, Greater London Fund for the Blind, will open the Geranium Shop, 269 Kensington High Street.

■ ***The Princess Royal***, as Royal Honorary Colonel, University of London Officers' Training Corps, will attend a Dinner at Yeomanry House, Handel Street WC1.

■ ***The Princess Royal***, as Commandant-in-Chief (Youth), St John Ambulance, will hold a First Aid Champions Reception at Buckingham Palace.

■ ROYAL ROLES: Sophie, Countess of Wessex, and the Duke of Edinburgh are on royal duty this week

March 16

■ ***The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh*** will attend a Reception for the Commonwealth High Commissioners' Banquet at the Guildhall given by The Royal Commonwealth Society.

■ ***The Earl of Wessex***, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend a Train Naming Ceremony at Paddington Station.

■ ***The Duke of Kent***, as President, will host a Gala Dinner for the Stroke Association at Buckingham Palace.

March 17

■ ***The Queen*** accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, will open Land of the Lions at the Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park.

■ ***The Duke of Edinburgh***, as President and Honorary Life Member, will attend a Club Dinner at the In & Out (Naval and Military) Club, St James's Square.

■ ***The Countess of Wessex***, as Patron, ChildLine, and President, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, will hold a Thirtieth Anniversary Reception at Buckingham Palace.

■ ***The Countess of Wessex***, as Grand President, St John Ambulance in the Priory of England and the Islands, will attend the County Presidents' Day at Chapter Hall, St John's Gate, St John's Lane EC1.

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

At last, a fitting tribute to cup hero

FIFTY years after he led England to the greatest victory since the Second World War, the national treasure of all national treasures, Bobby Moore, is to have his glorious and brave personal story told on television at last.

ITV is to make *Tina And Bobby*, a three-hour drama which will reveal the moving story of the original golden couple, the tale of the England and West Ham legend's life with his childhood sweetheart Tina Dean, from their humble beginnings to the heights of superstardom.

The drama will reveal bravery that many of Bobby's fans never knew, that when he led the England team out at Wembley Stadium in 1966 he was already fighting the cancer that was to take him so tragically young.

Based on Tina Moore's memoir, *Bobby Moore: By The Person Who Knew Him Best*, the tribute is an epic love story about an ordinary girl from Essex who fell head over heels in love with an ordinary boy, who just happened to be an extraordinarily talented footballer.

"Tina was a typist for the Prudential when she first met Bobby aged 15, when she skipped school to go to the Ilford Palais with her cousin Jenny. Film star handsome and coolness personified, Bobby was only 17 himself and, though an exciting emerging talent, had yet to make a first team appearance," said Lauren Klee, who has adapted Tina's book for TV.

"Unpretentious Tina had a loving upbringing in the modest semi-detached home of her resilient mother Betty. Typically down to earth, Bobby had experienced the same nurturing relationship with his parents Big Bob and Doss, who were always to feature prominently in his life.

"Tina was to marry Bobby on 30 June 1962, with former West Ham and Manchester United full back Noel Cantwell as Bobby's best man and flamboyant football manager Malcolm Allison and the West Ham team in the congregation.

"Finding her feet in this new glamourous world, Tina looked radiant and was fizzing with nervous energy. She and Bobby were excited about the future and the new home they were setting up together. Yet whilst on honeymoon in Majorca, Noel Cantwell, Malcolm Allison and their respective wives joined them, and Tina began to realise she might have to share Bobby with the world of football."

MOORE MEMORIES: Bobby Moore and his teenage sweetheart Tina Dean, main picture, and the England captain in iconic red strip

As Bobby's career flourished, Tina was happy to consider herself the first WAG, though she struggled to master life as a suburban housewife. She befriended some of her fellow WAGS – Judith Hurst, Kathy Peters and Janice Sealey – and pregnancy with their first child gave her renewed purpose.

Then in 1965 the 'golden' couple were dealt a devastating blow: Bobby was diagnosed with testicular cancer and faced a career threatening operation. With the World Cup around the corner it looked as if Bobby wouldn't be eligible to play but, against all the odds, he fought his way back to fitness and the rest, as they say, is history.

England's victory made Bobby and Tina national celebrities and they experienced amazing highs, including the birth of their son Dean. Their heady lifestyle did take its toll, though the marriage survived. However, when Bobby's career waned and business ventures failed the cracks started to show and Tina began to realise that the biggest challenges were still to come.

Director of drama Steve November and controller of drama Victoria Fea have commissioned *Tina and Bobby* for ITV.

"Tina and Bobby became national sweethearts in a time when the whole of Britain seemed youthful, successful and optimistic," said November.

"Tina has reason to be called the first WAG, the Moores were the first celebrity football couple and the nation fell in love with them. *Tina and Bobby* is a personal and frank insight into their lives and we're delighted to commission the drama from Kieran Roberts and ITV Studios."

"Most people will know the story of Bobby Moore's achievements as captain of club and country – the only Englishman ever to lift the football World Cup," said executive producer Kieran Roberts.

"Far fewer will know the story of his life with Tina – a love story every bit as dramatic and epic as Bobby's exploits on the pitch. We are thrilled to be dramatising Tina and Bobby's amazing story for ITV."

FOLLOWING protests in the UK and USA that the excellence of mature female acting is not sufficiently recognised nor rewarded, hopes are high that the BBC's peerless drama *Call The Midwife* will sweep the boards at this year's BAFTA TV awards.

The superb and largely all-women series, which effortlessly achieves more for women power in one episode than six months of Dame Jenni Murray's overtly-partisan *Woman's Hour*, is expected to win gong after gong at the big night in May for the very best of British television.

If there is any justice in this world, the cast, producers and crew of *Call The Midwife* will go home laden with the glittering prizes the public has judged that this beacon of eminence so admirably deserves.

It is hoped that Jenny Agutter, who plays Sister Julienne, will walk away with the best actress BAFTA and Pam Ferris, who played Sister Evangelina, ought to be deservedly favourite for best supporting actress, a gong that could easily go to any of the cast who reveal British acting at its finest.

STAR IS BORN: Jenny Agutter

Frankly, there deserve to be riots in the streets if neither wins a BAFTA for this is the BBC at its greatest; not cool, not hipster, just damn good acting, storytelling, directing and production.

Clearly the viewers agree. Almost 40 per cent of the TV audience watched the recent last episode of this year's series, in which Sister Evangelina died of a stroke and there was not a dry eye in some 10 million homes.

The nominations for the BAFTA TV prizes will be announced at the end of this month, with the awards ceremony in May. Meanwhile the drama is set to top the ratings when it returns for a special on Christmas Day and a new series next year.

Heaven knows he's mayoral now

MUCH like many things in life, Morrissey has a love/hate relationship with London.

In his songs the indie idol has spun stories that capture both the magic and the malevolence of the big smoke.

Whether as a teenager journeying south to take up a backscrubber's job at the local YWCA, or celebrating the city as "the home of the brash, outrageous and free", the capital has been a constant character in Mozzer's lyrics.

So perhaps it was not a complete surprise when the singer announced last week that he was "seriously considering" a late run for London mayor.

A statement released on his website announced that the Animal Welfare Party had asked him to enter the race as their official candidate.

The former Smiths front man is famous for his fiery attacks on the meat industry and, given a platform, let fly with typical flourish.

The "milk-drinking population" were condoners of torture, he said. And the "sanctimonious disaster of animal agriculture" must be brought to an immediate end.

So what exactly would a London under the rule of Moz look like? Presumably the capital's rotisserie of late night chicken shops would be first on the chopping block, and Battersea Dogs and Cats Home could be forgiven for anticipating a healthy handout from City Hall.

Maybe his songbook will shine a light on what else we can expect.

He famously wailed how "heavenly" it would be to die alongside his beloved underneath the wheels of a double decker bus, so perhaps public transport won't be top of his priorities.

The Royal Family can expect to be turfed out of Buckingham Palace if The Smiths' 1986 album *The Queen Is Dead* is anything to go by.

And Sir Bernard should probably fear the worst too, with Moz having confessed in lyrical form his passion for "the romance of crime".

Few artists have made such an impact as Morrissey in attempting to make political points through the medium of pop music.

Heaven knows, City Hall would be his biggest stage yet.

CAMPAIGN TRAIL: Might Morrissey make a move for City Hall?

BY NICKY SWEETLAND AND JACK DIXON ● EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

How George got the best out of the Beatles

A few words on Sir George Martin, a musical visionary, a lovely bloke and the greatest gentleman of rock and roll.

As everyone knows, it was George who insisted that The Beatles speeded up *Please Please Me*, the song that they had originally written as a Roy Orbison-style blues, and in doing so gave the single that infectious spirit which propelled the band to their first UK No 1, their first Top 40 hit in America and thereby changed the sound of music forever.

Lesser known is the true story that it was in part George's big heart that gave The Beatles their earlier and first hit with *Love Me Do*, after he backed off from insisting that they released a different song – *How Do You Do It* – because he kindly understood that they "didn't want to be laughed at".

When the young scruffs from Liverpool first recorded with George at Abbey Road in 1962 they wanted to break the mould of the times, which was basically that bands recorded professional writers' songs, not their own material.

In keeping with the traditional way, George had Mitch Murray's *How Do You Do It* in mind for his new signings and suggested that they recorded it.

"We listened to the demo and said, 'It's a hit, George, but we've got a song called *Love Me Do*," Paul McCartney recalls.

"George said, 'I don't think yours is such a big hit'. We said, 'Yes, but it is to us, and it is what we're about. We're trying to be blues, we're not trying to be 'la de da de da'. We're students and artsy guys, we can't take that song home to Liverpool, we'll get laughed at.'"

George asked that The Beatles learnt up *How Do You Do It* anyway. But when they returned to Abbey Road and played it for him, he could see that they hated it. These days, many a top producer, let along the head of a record label – as George was at Parlophone – would make a band record what he wanted, irrespective of their disquiet.

But no other producer is or ever has been George Martin. Faced with his young charges looking distinctly miserable at the idea of releasing such a poppy song, the great man relented and went with *Love Me Do* – although not before adding his genius touch by saying, "Can anyone play harmonica? It would be rather nice. Couldn't think of some sort of bluesy thing, could you, John?"

Dah da da-da dah, and with that the greatest band in the history of music was born, enabled, coaxed and always lovingly-cherished by the man of whom Paul last week said, "if anyone earned the title of the Fifth Beatle, it was George."

It will surprise nobody – but gladden many – if Paul was now to mount a tribute to George at the Albert Hall. Although they may need a bigger stage to fit in all of the greats who would want to honour him.

Almost 20 years ago George put the call out for stars to help him with a benefit concert for his beloved island of Montserrat, where he had a studio which, like much of the island, was destroyed by a major volcanic eruption. Among those who signed up to join George's band for that Music For Montserrat concert at the Albert Hall were Paul McCartney, Elton John, Eric Clapton, Mark Knopfler, Sting, Phil Collins, Carl Perkins, Jimmy Buffet, Midge Ure, Ray Cooper and many more.

If a tribute to George gig is now staged there will be a rush of top artists wanting to take part in a salute to the glorious gentleman without whom it would not have been.

Geoff Baker

MIXED EMOTIONS: George Martin, Paul McCartney and Ring Starr

TV's musical salute to the Brian Epstein story

CASTING is about to start for the most-sought and most-challenging roles of year and every young actor under the sun will be wanting to win a part – to play John, Paul, George or Ringo in a new TV series that tells the story of their legendary manager Brian Epstein.

The series, based on Vivek Tiwary's best-selling graphic novel *The Fifth Beatle*, is certain to become one of the great music TV triumphs as, unlike every other Beatles-related dramas, the producers have secured the rights for songs from the Lennon-McCartney catalogue to feature in it.

The Fifth Beatle was developed as a feature by Simon Cowell's Syco Entertainment and now it is to be made as a four-hour series by Sonar Entertainment for screening worldwide.

"I have always been fascinated by Brian Epstein and his story," said Cowell. "He played a huge role in The Beatles' incredible success and, I believe, he remains the most talented manager ever. Yet his story has never been fully told."

The Fifth Beatle recounts the true story of the legendary Beatles manager and his effort to drive the unknown band from playing in a Liverpool cellar to unparalleled international superstardom. Epstein overcame great obstacles, both personally and professionally, being a gay man in a time and place where homosexual acts were a felony.

"This story of the man behind the rise of the Beatles will captivate fans around the world and make for a compelling series that is both intimate and epic," said Sonar's executive vice president Tom Patricia.

Tiwary added: "Brian Epstein's story is rich in inspiration and is set amidst a backdrop of great cultural change and the legendary history of the Beatles, so an event series truly feels like the only way that we can do Brian justice.

"We're going to do wonderful things with the extra creative room afforded to us."

IT is regarded as one of the greatest albums of all time – but until now it has never been performed live in its entirety.

Lucky Londoners will be the first – and perhaps only – music lovers to hear Carole King play 1971's *Tapestry* from start to finish.

The New York singer-songwriter set box offices alight when she was announced as the headline act at the Barclaycard presents British Summer Time event in Hyde Park – destined to be among the capital's most memorable concerts of 2016.

Applauding the city for its support of her recent musical, King revealed how thrilled she was to be coming 'home again'.

"I want to begin by thanking Londoners for making *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical* so special," the singer said. "And now I'm coming to London and can't wait to perform *Tapestry* from beginning to end for the first time ever. How perfect to be doing that in the heart of one of my favourite cities."

The hits that King penned in the early 60s with her then husband Gerry Goffin – *(You Make Me Feel Like A) Natural Woman* for Aretha Franklin, *The Locomotion* for Little Eva and *Pleasant Valley Sunday* for The Monkees, to name but a few – came to define the decade in American pop.

ICONIC ALBUM: Carole King's classic 1971 LP release *Tapestry* is one of the top selling albums in music history

But it was *Tapestry*, the album she wrote after divorcing Goffin and moving to California, that became her lasting legacy.

The album has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide and sealed King's place among popular music's all-time greats.

The Hyde Park show in July will also feature performances from ex-Eagles drummer Don Henley and King's own daughter, Louise Goffin, who released her seventh album last year.

King added: "I can only say that there is nowhere else I'd rather be on July 3 than Hyde Park in the great city of London."

MAKE sure you do not miss the last chance to get tickets to see "the guitarists' guitarist" Robbie McIntosh when he makes his home-coming to The Half Moon in Putney on Saturday, the gig is tipped to be one of the greatest of the year.

For Sutton-born Robbie, the lead guitarist of The Pretenders, Paul McCartney and John Mayer, the Half Moon show will be a return to his old stamping ground and West London's top music venue is expected to be packed with his pals.

"I used to go to the Half Moon years ago in my late teens. I'd go and see Morrisey Mullen there, Jim Mullen being one of my favourite guitarists, it was more of a jazz pub in those days," says the axeman rated in the music business to be up there with Eric Clapton as Britain's finest guitarist.

It will be a night to remember. Tickets, £12 in advance and £14 on the door, from *www.halfmoon.co.uk*

Talk of the town

Wonderful West End women provide songs, laughs (and some tears)

IT'S all about West End women at the Hippodrome Casino over the next few months because Club 11 London has teamed up with the Leicester Square venue to bring the very best leading ladies to the intimate stage for some hugely anticipated one-off gigs, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The programme of cabaret-style events kicks off with an evening with Bonnie Langford on March 31 that will see the legendary entertainer regale audiences with songs and stories from her illustrious career. The star, who is currently starring as Carmel Kazemi in BBC1's *EastEnders*, will be joined by some very special guests for the show, which is likely to be a fantastically glitzy spectacle.

The April 15 event will see Anna-Jane Casey grace the stage with an "up close and personal" concert. One of the West End's leading ladies for over 20 years (*Cats, Billy Elliot, Chicago, Forbidden Broadway, Sunday In The Park With George*), Anna-Jane is known for her phenomenal range of talents. The versatile performer will thrill with a diverse track listing which will include Bruno Mars, Jerry Herman, Stiles and Drewe, Edith Piaf and Amy Winehouse.

Anna-Jane will perform with her jazz trio under the musical direction of Paul Herbert and will feature a special guest, yet to be announced.

Casey will be followed by the queen of the West End, Kerry Ellis, who will bring her solo band to the Hippodrome on April 29.

Ellis is currently performing around Europe with her friend and mentor Brian May as part of their One Voice tour but the singer will bring her unique vocal talents back to London for just one night when, along with virtuoso musical director Craig Adams, she will showcase some of her favourite musical theatre and rock standards from her most recent, self titled album.

Closely following on May 5, Frances Ruffelle is bringing her critically acclaimed solo show, *I Say Yeh-Yeh*, to the Hippodrome for the first time. Frances is known for creating the role of Eponine in the original production of *Les Miserables*, for which the iconic actress won a Tony Award.

The show offers a comic insight to Frances' own true-life story from heartbreak to empowerment and brings a certain "je ne sais quoi" to songs you thought you knew.

The show includes a brand new version of *On My Own* arranged by award winning Gwyneth Herbert, who will also be performing with Frances in this unique evening with a French twist.

Lastly, the celebrated West End club will play host to an intimate evening with the much-loved actress Claire Sweeney on June 2.

Claire is a singer, radio presenter and TV personality who rose to prominence as Lindsay Corkhill in Channel 4's *Brookside*. Since then she has enjoyed a hugely successful career on both stage and screen – which has included roles in the West End musicals *Chicago* and *Guys & Dolls* alongside Patrick Swayze. As a TV presenter, Claire has hosted prime time shows *Here Comes the Sun* and *Challenge of a Lifetime*, as well as four series of *60 Minute Makeover*.

She has made regular appearances on shows such as *Loose Women, This Morning* and *Lorraine*, to name a few. She was in the original series of both BBC1's *Strictly Come Dancing* and Channel 4's *Celebrity Big Brother,* in which she came second.

The invasion of the West End women will begin on March 31and with more special guests still to be announced, promises to be a cabaret season not to be missed.

If you would like to book tickets you can visit the website *hippodromecasino.com*

■ FANS' FAVOURITE: Frances Ruffelle

■ WESTENDER: The April 15 event will see Anna-Jane Casey grace the stage with an 'up close and personal' concert

■ THE VOICE: Kerry Ellis will bring her solo band to the Hippodrome on April 29

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Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

■ **AFFAIR: Gemma Arterton in *Nell Gwynn*** Picture: Simon Turtle

■ **ROYAL APPOINTMENT: Gemma Arterton alongside David Sturzaker as Charles II in *Nell Gwynn* at the Apollo Theatre – a show well received by the critics** Picture: Tristram Kenton

Joyful Nell delights in this right royal romp

Nell Gwynn *****

AFTER proving a rousing success at Shakespeare's Globe, Jessica Swale's *Nell Gwynn* swung into town last week with high expectations – and it did not disappoint, *writes Nicky Sweetland*.

The play, which is set in 17th century London, follows the rise of a guttersnipe orange seller who becomes one of Britain's most celebrated actresses and catches the eye of King Charles II.

Not bogged down with too much historical bolstering however, the production has an almost *Blackadder* feel to it, with the audience invited into the backstage world of the theatre where women were a mere decoration and the idea of one becoming a successful performer was just a pipe-dream.

The vivacious Gemma Arterton leads the cast with an absolute gem of a performance as the cockney miss who steels the king's heart but has to contend with the consequences of being seen as a second class citizen. The play cleverly interjects feminist values without them becoming the whole subtext of the plot, with Arterton's bawdy and joyful Nell promoting the perfect amount of feminine guile alongside some courageous cheek.

Arterton is without doubt the fulcrum around which everything else revolves but with a truly stellar cast of quality performers around her, the stage is at all times filled with a captivating and endearing style.

David Sturzaker brings a very Hugh Laurie element to his Charles II while Greg Haiste, whose head is stylishly adorned with hosiery for much of the show, adds a touch of the pantomime dame to proceedings. Jay Taylor and Michael Garner also impress but it's Michelle Dotrice who gives everyone a lesson in comedy with spectacular one liners, a bit of perfectly timed slapstick and the ability to bring the house down with just a sidewise glance.

This was a thoroughly charming and enjoyable evening which I predict will leave you humming a merry tune and skipping with joy all the way home.

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LONDON ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

THURSDAY
5
MAY
2016

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Talk of the town

■ **EXCITING INTERPRETATION: John Lightbody as Lysander and Victoria Moseley as Hermia, top, with Cat Simmons as Titania, bottom, in A Midsummer Night's Dream** Photos by Tristram Kenton

Lyric at its radical best

A Midsummer Night's Dream Lyric Hammersmith
*****

IF the Lyric Hammersmith is known for one thing, it's the theatre's unique and interesting takes on classic works. The resident company is famous for taking famous shows and bringing them into the modern age without allowing any of the original charm to be lost, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

This has been abundantly obvious over the last year, with the Olivier-nominated *Bugsy Malone,* the very urban *Cinderella* and the wonderfully bleak *Herons* all fulfilling the criteria. Sean Holmes and Stef O'Driscol once again bring a luscious dose of the obscure to the Lyric's production of the Shakespeare comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The play was originally performed in this format back in 2012 when it was cut down and made much more free in readiness for Latitude Festival. With many of the original cast reprising their roles, it is a great opportunity to explore the silliness and outlandishness of the Bard's script with some excellently inserted modern verse to achieve a contemporary twist.

With fairies, a play within the play and spells of love flying back and forth, this dreamy show lends itself well to a bonkers interpretation and with Ed Gaughan's stand-up comedy you get a mirthful melodrama which is exceptionally funny. The themes of the tale remain the same, but the setting is wonderfully fresh and any of the more boggy dialogue is removed or replaced with modern pros and improvised idioms by the cast – who are passionate and yet earnest about their product.

It's fantastic to see the Lyric's youth programme once again providing the platform for some exceptional talent to blossom, with Hammed Animashaun making the step up from *Bugsy Malone* to playing the lovelorn Demetrius with apparent ease. It's very much an inclusive ensemble performance however, with the musicians and stage crew also playing a big part in the action.

On the evening on which I attended the cast conducted an enlightening Q and A session with the audience, which was made up in a large part by students. I spoke to co-director O'Driscol afterwards about the impact of the show in this, the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, and also about the Lyric's impact on the local community in Hammersmith.

She said: "What's fantastic about this show is the audience and how they respond. You get people from all walks of life and you have them laughing and engaging with each other. It's really important that Shakespeare is made accessible for people irrelevant of class, of age, of gender, of ethnicity. The audience is so diverse and we have young people really responding and really celebrating Shakespeare."

"The Lyric is definitely a pillar within this community and especially with the redevelopment, the work they do and the audiences that come in.

"They make work for their community, for families, for young people and for the elderly. The scheme they do, the free first nights is just an example of that. Anyone living in the local borough, gets a free ticket to come and see the show on the first night and that's really important for the Lyric."

For theatre news and to have a look at what's coming next to the Lyric you can visit their website *lyric.co.uk*

■ **RISING STARS: Jonathan Broadbent as Oberon, top, main picture, and Victoria Moseley, inset**

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Osborne's cassic play for two knights only

NOT one but two knights of the realm will be on show later this year as leading actor John Hurt returns to the London stage for the first time in a decade to join Kenneth Branagh for *The Entertainer* at the Garrick Theatre.

The duo of sirs will be part of the final production in the Kenneth Branagh Theatre Company's Plays at the Garrick season and will see Hurt play the patriarch Billy Rice opposite Branagh, who as previously announced, will play the unforgettable Archie Rice in Rob Ashford's production.

Set against the backdrop of post-war Britain, John Osborne's modern classic conjures up the seedy glamour of the old music halls for an explosive examination of public masks and private torment. Lawrence Olivier starred as Archie in the original production, which opened at The Royal Court in 1957.

A vast array of stars have also appeared in the acclaimed play over the years, including Jack Lemmon, Michael Gambon and Robert Lyndsey, who played the lead in a revival at The Old Vic in 2007.

The Entertainer will play at the Garrick Theatre from Saturday, August 20 until Saturday, November 12. For more information please see *branaghtheatre.com*

Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

Helping hands bring this show alive for adults

THE outrageously funny puppet musical *Avenue Q* brings its very unique style of mayhem and madness to the New Wimbledon Theatre this week.

The triple Tony award winning musical has been described as "*Sesame Street* for grown ups" and is undoubtedly not for those who are easily offended – but offers a laugh-out -loud funny script with sensational music and some very cheeky puppetry, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The show has been touring the UK following its acclaimed West End run and will visit Wimbledon from March 14 to 19.

I had a chat to experienced puppet coach Nigel Plaskitt about his continued role in the show.

Nigel said: "I train the actors how to use the puppets and get involved in the casting sessions. I usually spend about three weeks with the cast and then I view the show every two or three weeks just to make sure everything is still hanging together."

It has been Nigel's job for the past 10 years to train all those involved. And if you think it looks easy you should think again, he said.

"It's actually extremely difficult and not everyone can do it. The actors make it look easy but it takes a lot of practice and co-ordination. There is a huge amount to think about and that's where I come in by teaching them how to use the puppets."

He says the puppets themselves are not heavy and indeed are made to be really light as they have to be easy to move around. But he says for the actors it is all about learning how to move in a totally new and unnatural way that is the tricky bit.

Nigel's illustrious puppetry career started with TV and film and it's only within the last 12 years that he has become involved in theatre. He told me: "I started out doing a children's show in the 1970s called *Pipkins,* which was a pre-school show. Then I started working for *Spitting Image*, the satirical show which ran for about 13 years."

The master puppeteer then began his association with the Jim Henson company, who were shooting *The Muppet Show* at Elstree studios while Nigel was working on *Pipkins*. He went on to work on the classic family film *Labyrinth*, which starred the late David Bowie, as well as all of the big Muppet movies, including *The Muppets' Christmas Carol*, which starred Michael Caine as Scrooge.

Avenue Q tells the story of a recent college graduate named Princeton who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. There, he meets Kate (the girl next door), Rod (the Republican), Trekkie (the internet sexpert), Lucy The Slut and other colourful types who help Princeton finally discover his true purpose in life.

For more on *Avenue Q* visit the website *avenueq uk.com*

■ ONE FOR THE GROWN-UPS: The stars and the puppeteers from the show, Avenue Q

Declan on the outdoor stage

DECLAN Bennett leads the cast in the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which runs from July 15 to August 27.

The original lead in the London cast of *Once* (Phoenix), Bennett has also appeared in Boy George's musical *Taboo* (Venue Theatre), *Rent* (US tour and Broadway), *American Idiot* (Broadway) as well as on BBC's *EastEnders* as Charlie Cotton. As a solo singer-songwriter, his latest album *Record:Breakup* was released as a live acoustic version in 2013. Bennett, *pictured*, achieved five UK Top 20 singles, and a UK Top 20 album with Brit Award-nominated boy band Point Break.

Celebrating 45 years since Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's seminal musical first hit the stage, *Jesus Christ Superstar* is directed by Timothy Sheader and has a legendary score, including *I Don't Know How to Love Him, Gethsemane* and *Superstar*.

Musical direction is by Tom Deering (*Made in Dagenham, From Here to Eternity*), design byTom Scutt (*Constellations, Les Liaisons Dangereuses*) and choreography by Drew McOnie (*Jekyll & Hyde* and Olivier Award nominee for Best Choreographer for *In The Heights*).

Talk of the town

■ FOLLOWING a critically acclaimed run of *FAME: Not The Musical* in 2014, the Menier Chocolate Factory has announced the world première of David Baddiel's new show *My Family: Not The Sitcom*.

This is a massively disrespectful celebration of the lives of Baddiel's late mother, Sarah, and dementia-ridden father, Colin. It's a show about memory, ageing, infidelity, what we can and can't say in an over-policed moral culture, and gay cats.

Baddiel, *pictured*, returns to the Menier Chocolate Factory following *FAME: Not The Musical* which discussed his strange relationship with celebrity and what it is like to live a life in (and out of) fame. His other theatre work includes the stage adaptation of his hit indie film *The Infidel* which ran at Theatre Royal Stratford East in autumn 2014.

Baddiel was first known as one of the stars of *The Mary Whitehouse Experience* and then *Newman and Baddiel In Pieces* – both for BBC Two. In 1992, with Rob Newman, he performed to 12,500 people in the UK's first ever arena comedy show. In 1994 Baddiel and Frank Skinner created *Fantasy Football League* and they, along with The Lightening Seeds, wrote the iconic unofficial England anthem *Three Lions*, which has been number one three times and is still heard at games around the world. In 2000 Baddiel and Skinner created the hit ITV show *Baddiel and Skinner Unplanned*, going out live and unscripted for over 60 episodes.

They joined up together again in 2006 and 2010 to record one of the first hit podcasts, *Baddiel and Skinner's World Cup Podcasts*, live from Germany and South Africa. The show was downloaded over a million times and was one of the first podcasts to be nominated for a Sony Award.

In 2010, he made his directorial debut with *The Norris McWhirter Chronicles* – a film for Sky 1, which he also wrote. For radio, he created *Heresey, Don't Make Me Laugh* and *David Baddiel Tries to Understand* – all for BBC Radio 4. He can currently be seen presenting a four-part documentary, *David Baddiel on the Silk Road to Discovery*.

Away from the screen he has published six books to date: *Time for Bed, Whatever Love Means, The Secret Purposes, The Death of Eli Gold* and two novels for children *The Parent Agency* and *The Person Controller.* He also has a new book being published for World Book Day called *The Boy Who Could Do What He Liked.* The production opens on May 17.

Funny how Julie delivers musical styles brilliantly

Julie Atherton at the Crazy Coqs *****

JULIE Atherton, one of the most versatile and comedic West End musical theatre performers of recent years, made her debut at the Crazy Coqs last month for a run of cabaret performances to showcase her brand new album, *writes Nicky Sweetland.*

The album, called *Rush of Life,* has a grand mixture of styles and genres of music which perfectly showcase the singer's very unique style of delivering ditties and ballads side by side.

Audiences at the club in Soho were treated to an assortment of highlights from the record, along with some guest star performances.

Atherton is best known for her West End stage work and has appeared in some of the biggest musicals in town, including *Avenue Q* and the celebrated musical adaptation of *Sister Act* alongside Sheila Hancock at the London Palladium. Most recently she enjoyed critical acclaim as part of the cast of the song cycle show to celebrate the work of lyricist Lesley Bricusse at the St James Theatre entitled *Pure Imagination,* in which she impressed with fresh and vibrant takes on classics standards including the love theme from *Superman*, *Can You Read My Mind.*

The Crazy Coqs cabaret sits beneath the popular Brasserie Zedal just off Piccadilly Circus – and has become well known for offering an outlet for performers to get up close and personal with their fans.

Atherton was wonderfully at home in the setting, japing and telling funny anecdotes as if in a bar filled with mates. Her vocals are simply gorgeous, with depth and a sultry resonance so when she treated the room to *A Great Big World's* hit, *Say Something* and her self penned *Whoever You Are,* the room hushed to a pin-drop silence.

The comedy turns are really Atherton's forte however, and during the evening at the intimate club she regaled onlookers with *Portrait of a Princess* and then a hilarious *Put a Party Hat on a Cat,* for which she was joined on stage by her friend and West End colleague Laura Pitt-Pulford.

Another showbiz pal, Olivier winner, Katie Brayben gave Atherton a break when she performed a sublime rendition of the Joni Mitchell classic *Both Sides Now.*

With more top special guests joining the star for the rest of the week, including *Great British Bake Off's* Mel Giedroyc and another Olivier award winner, George Maguire, I'm sure the audiences at the Crazy Coqs were left hoping that this is the first of many residencies by the ultra-talented Miss Atherton.

■ ACCLAIMED: Julia Atherton, above, is one of the most versatile West End performers, says theatre critic Nicky Sweetland. Inset left: Jon Lee is one of the stars of Forever Plaid

■ AN all-star cast has been announced for the special three-week run of *Forever Plaid* at St James Theatre Studio.

One of the most popular and successful musicals in America and now performed internationally to great acclaim, *Forever Plaid* comes to St James Theatre Studio and will star Jon Lee alongside Keith Jack, Matthew Quinn and Luke Striffler as the heavenly quartet who get one final chance to give the concert they never gave. The Plaids sing nostalgic hits *Rags To Riches, Love Is A Many Splendored Thing, Catch A Falling Star, Three Coins In A Fountain* and many more – all in glorious harmony with patter that will keep any audience rolling in the aisles.

Jon Lee is best known for being an original member of S Club 7 and was part of the reunion in 2015 which was launched as part of Children In Need and then went on to sell out an 11 date tour to over 100,000 people.

He is no stranger to the West End stage however, and has recently played Frankie Valli in *Jersey Boys* in the West End (Prince Edward Theatre) as well as previously fulfilling the role of Marius in *Les Misérables* (Palace Theatre, Queen's Theatre and 25th anniversary concert at the O2).

Jon is joined by Keith Jack, who plays Sparky. Jack was a runner-up in BBC's talent search *Any Dream Will Do* but then went on to achieve success in the touring version of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.*

Matthew Quinn plays Smudge and Luke Striffler plays Francis to make up the 50s-style close harmony quartet.

Forever Plaid was first performed off-Broadway in 1990 and continues to be performed internationally. It was made into a film in 2008.

Join the boys of *Forever Plaid* on a humorous and 'heavenly' journey through some of the greatest close-harmony songs of the 5's.

For more details visit the website *stjamestheatre.co.uk*

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WINE & DINE

The food and drink page for West London

It doesn't have to be fish fingers every night

by Claire Spreadbury

GUILT is something many mums suffer from. In today's busy world, it's so hard to find time to do everything you should for your kids - including cooking from scratch. And it's so easy to reach for the fish fingers and waffles and give little ones a lunch you know they'll love.

But with even a tiny bit of time, you'll be amazed at what you can whip up in the kitchen.

To prove the point, Annabel Karmel, pictured, has unveiled her latest batch of recipes, splashed deliciously across 220 pages in her new book. There are quick recipes, ingredients-based ideas, dishes for entertaining - from pasta bakes, to cakes and steaks - there's pretty much everything you could ever need to feed a family at any age.

But the difference with this latest release - The Busy Mum's Cookbook - is that you really don't need hours on end to cook up these delicious storms.

So there are the 20-minute recipes for people who don't have the time or inclination to cook.

Just the other week, I was cursing for agreeing to 'do' dinner the evening before a 10k race (something else to try and squeeze in and feel guilty about), because I wanted a pasta dish that wasn't too heavy. By the time the kids had gone to bed, all I wanted to do was slump in front of the telly and watch The Voice. So what did I do? I turned to page 44 and whipped up Karmel's Mushroom And Broccoli Pasta in about 20 minutes flat.

There are oodles of quick and easy dinner ideas to get kids excited - the Sweet Potato Curls make a brilliant alternative to chips, the Frittata With Cherry Tomatoes is "the best frittata in the whole wide world", according to my three and six-year-old, and the Apricot, Pecan, Raisin And Chocolate Cookies are easy for little hands to make - and taste so good, you'll struggle to keep away from the biscuit tin.

Feeling inspired? Try this easy Annabel Karmel recipe for size...

CHICKEN GOUJONS WRAPPED IN PARMA HAM

(Makes 14 goujons)

2 large skinless chicken breasts
7 slices Parma ham
2tsp runny honey
For the sauce:
200g creme fraiche
2tbsp fresh green pesto
Squeeze of lemon juice
Salt and black pepper

Preheat the oven to 200C/Gas 6 and grease a baking tin.

Place the chicken breasts on a board. Cover them with cling film, then bash them with a rolling pin until they are slightly thinner. Remove the cling film and slice each breast into seven goujon-shaped strips.

Cut each slice of Parma ham in half. Wrap each goujon in a piece of Parma ham, then place on the prepared baking tray. Drizzle over the honey, then roast for 10 minutes, until cooked through and crisp.

Mix together the creme fraiche, pesto and lemon juice and season. Serve hot (heated through in a small saucepan) or cold with the crisp goujons.

Tastes great served with baked potato or sweet potato wedges.

● ***Annabel Karmel's Busy Mum's Cookbook is published by Ebury Press, priced £20.***

MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Salmon caviar potatoes

Serves four

I SUGGEST that you use medium-sized baking potatoes for this dish (ideally weighing about 200g). Alternatively, and depending on the shape of the potatoes, you could get away with using two larger potatoes cut in half, or even small new potatoes which you could serve as a canapé or snack.

Ingredients

120-150g salmon caviar (keta)
2 spring onions, halved lengthways and finely chopped
For the sauce
1 small shallot, peeled, halved and finely chopped
100ml white wine
½tbsp double cream
100g cold unsalted butter, diced
1tbsp finely chopped chives

Method

Bake your potatoes and mix the mashed potato with the spring onions. While the potatoes are crisping up in the oven, put the shallots in a pan with the white wine and simmer until the wine has almost evaporated then add the cream. Remove from the heat and whisk in the butter until it's melted and emulsified. Season to taste and stir in the chives.

To serve, refill the potato with the hot mashed potato and spring onion mixture to the top and then spoon on the salmon caviar, covering the whole surface of the potato. Spoon the sauce on to warmed serving plates (not hot) and place the potato on top.

■ **TOP SNACK: Salmon caviar on a baked potato, by Mark Hix**

The best of both worlds combine taste and flair at Bella Cosa

OFFERING the very best in Italian fine dining Bella Cosa is a true hidden gem in the heart of Canary Wharf where you can sample exquisite food and the very finest wines alongside the waterfront in a contemporary and wonderfully relaxed environment, ***writes Nicky Sweetland.***

The restaurant, which opened in October, is fast gaining a reputation for its unique blend of the very best Italian and Japanese cuisine comprising sumptuous Mediterranean flavours coupled with immaculate presentation by chef Kentaro Torii.

My companion and I allowed our hosts to chose our menu for the evening and with their guidance, we enjoyed a veritable plethora of tastes and styles of food.

Our fine dining experience included meaty octopus with pesto, fried polenta with baccala and a celeriac mousse, ham and truffle chips served in seashell ramekin.

We were afforded the opportunity of sampling accompanying wines and, along with tasting many of the other dishes, a major highlight was the rich tiramisu to finish.

With a relaxing beer corner upstairs next to the casual dining area and an open and airy downstairs restaurant for a more chilled pizza and pasta experience, Bella Cosa provides everything you could possibly desire from a good quality evening meal.

For more details you can visit the website bellacosarestaurant.com

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Public Notices

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LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sloane Square Hotel of 7-12 Sloane Square, SW1W 8EG has applied to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the VARIATION of premises licence under the Licencing Act 2003 for the premises Sloane Square Hotel situated at 7-12 Sloane Square, London SW1W 8EG.

Proposed variation: -

Addition of ground floor lobby bar to be open Monday-Sunday 06:00 to 24:00 with the following licensable activities: Supply of alcohol, on the premises, recorded music and anything of a similar description indoors only. Monday-Sunday 06:30 to 24:00. Non-Standard timings: On New Year's Eve from the end of permitted hours until 03:00 the following day. A register of licensing applications is held by the Licensing Authority and can be inspected at http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environmentandtransport/licensing/licensingregisters.aspx or at Council Offices, 37 Pembroke Road, W8 6PW, by appointment with the Licensing Team between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to Licensing Authority address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 9th April 2016.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. In the case of an application for a provisional statement, please note that representations will be restricted once a statement

It is an offence liable on conviction to a fine up to Level 5 on the standard scale under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with this application.

MARIE-LOUISE JENNINGS
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 17 Stamford Brook Road, London W6 0JX, who died on 03/08/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 23/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Hunters, 9 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3QN.
Ref: LB.44042-1

To advertise in the
Classified Section
Tel: 020 8768 4919

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of Application for a New Premises Licence

An application has been made to City of Westminster by Aquavit London Ltd for a new Premises Licence for premises to be known as Aquavit, 1 Carlton Street, London SW1Y 4QQ.

The application includes proposals for the sale and supply of alcohol, the provision of late night refreshment and the provision of recorded music. The proposed opening hours are in line with the hours for the sale of alcohol and other licensable activities and are between the hours of 7.30am until 1am on the day following on Mondays to Saturdays and 9.30am until 10.30pm on Sundays.

The full application setting out full details of the licence sought can be viewed at the offices of the licensing authority at the Licensing Authority, City of Westminster, 4th Floor East, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP during normal office hours (ring in advance to check). Further information may be available at www.westminster.gov.uk.

Responsible Authorities or persons likely to be affected by the grant of the application can make representations to the Licensing Authority by Wednesday 6 April 2016. All representations must be made in writing.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is £5,000.

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP
JIB/37221.1

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(KING STREET / ARGYLE PLACE)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works to be carried out in the above named roads, it intends to make an Order the effect of which prohibits vehicular traffic and suspends a loading bay in sections of the above named roads.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in Argyle Place at its Junction with King Street.
3. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the cycle lane on King Street, between No. 120 King Street and its junction with Dimes Place, shall be suspended.
4. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the loading bay on King Street outside Nos.110 to 114, shall be suspended.
5. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
6. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
7. The Order would come into operation on the Wednesday, 6th April 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
8. Works would be expected to commence on Wednesday, 6th April 2016 and last for 3 days. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this day of 26th day of February 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner

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Local Planning Applications
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA

120 Blythe Road London W14 0HD 2015/06028/FUL
Change of use of part of the ground floor from (Class A4) public house into a two bedroom self-contained flat (Class C3); erection of a single storey rear extension; alterations to the front elevations of the building (Amended description).

45 Holmead Road London SW6 2JD 2016/00976/FUL
Replacement of 1no window to the front elevation and 1no window to the rear elevation with French doors at second floor level.

8 Fulham Broadway London SW6 1AA 2016/00982/FUL
Conversion of first, second and third floor levels into 3 x one bedroom self-contained flats.

Flat 2 Kingsley House Avonmore Place London W14 8RY 2016/00869/FUL
Installation of a new window to the southern elevation at ground floor level.

2 Grove Mews London W6 7HS 2016/00881/FUL
Demolition of rear walls and internal floor levels within property, erection of replacement rear wall and internal floor areas, erection of additional storey with front terrace area and alterations to the front fenestration of the property.

95 Sterndale Road London W14 0HX 2016/00833/FUL
Excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; creation of a cycle storage shed in front garden.

140 Bishop's Road London SW6 7AS 2016/00900/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; replace existing single door to rear elevation at second floor level with new French doors.

17 Admiral Square Chelsea Harbour London SW10 0UU 2016/00878/FUL
Erection of a single storey side infill rear extension at fourth floor level.

17 Southcombe Street London W14 0RA 2016/00913/FUL
Installation of an automated entrance gate and railings on top of the existing boundary wall to the front of the site to enclose the car park.

Hand And Flower 617 King's Road London SW6 2ES 2016/00842/FUL
Erection of front, rear and side dormer roof extensions; erection of rear extensions at ground, first and second floor level; alterations to existing shopfront; installation of new doors and windows at ground floor level to the side elevation; formation of refuse and cycle storage at the rear of the property; conversion of first, second and third floor level into 1 x one bedroom, 2 x two bedroom and 2 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

12 Ackmar Road London SW6 4UP 2016/00874/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

44 Racton Road London SW6 1LP 2016/00904/FUL
Demolition of the existing building with the exception of the front facade and party walls, erection of single family dwelling house with addition of new rear roof extension including raising the roof ridge height by 300mm; erection of new two storey rear addition at second floor and third floor level; erection of a single storey rear addition , to the side and rear of the existing back addition footprint; enlargement of the existing basement; installation of 2no roof lights in new front roof slope.

Shepherds Building Charecroft Way London W14 0EH 2016/00773/FUL
Change of use of 2no units within the Shepherds Building (Unit LG03 at lower ground floor level measuring 241 sqm and Unit 2.2 at second floor level measuring 483 sqm) from Class B1 use to Class D1 use.

58 Southerton Road London W6 0PH 2016/00919/FUL
Excavation of the front garden to form a lightwell in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

683 Harrow Road London NW10 5NY 2016/00996/ADV
Display of a non-illuminated 16-sheet advertisement hoarding on flank wall.

923 - 931 Fulham Road London SW6 5HY 2016/00675/FUL
Retention of an installed ATM Pod.

273B Goldhawk Road London W12 8EU 2016/00921/FUL
Erection of a single storey extension to the side of the main building following the demolition of single storey lean-to office building in the rear courtyard; installation of 2no rooflights above the roof of first floor rear back addition; installation of new double glazed windows to replace the existing windows to the side and rear elevation of first floor back addition; replacement of existing windows with double glazed windows to the front and side elevations, replacement of existing doors with new doors and glazed panels to the rear elevation, installation of a timber panel to replace the existing door to the side elevation and installation of new timber gate and screen to replace the existing to the side of the main building at ground floor level.

Flat 4 188 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2UF 2016/00943/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofslope; replacement of existing windows with new windows at first floor level to the rear elevation.

923 - 931 Fulham Road London SW6 5HY 2016/00676/ADV
Retention of a non illuminated decal signage in white, yellow and red to existing ATM Pod.

22 Novello Street London SW6 4JB 2016/00863/FUL
Partial demolition and rebuilding of the two storey dwelling terrace house; alterations to the rear fenestration and at main roof level.

7 Stowe Road London W12 8BQ 2016/00843/FUL
Retention of frosted glass doors at first floor level to the side elevation; installation of 1.1m high wooden balustrade at first floor level to the side elevation.

Flat B 181 Blythe Road London W14 0HL 2016/00639/FUL
Replacement of 8no windows and 1no roof terrace door with new double glazed sash white painted timber frame windows and door at first floor level.

ARK Conway Primary Academy 60 Hemlock Road London W12 0QT 2016/00688/FUL
Erection of a new portacabin on top of the existing portacabin for a temporary period to use as classroom accommodation; formation of an access ramp to the ground floor portacabin, erection of an external staircase from ground floor to first floor level to the western elevation of the portacabins.

12B Godolphin Road London W12 8JE 2016/00764/FUL
Replacement of 1no window at upper ground floor level, 2no windows at first floor, 1no window at second floor level to the front elevation, 2no windows at first and second floor level to rear elevation with double glazed timber framed sash and casement windows.

18 Cromwell Grove London W6 7RG 2016/00979/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition at lower ground floor level; excavation of the side passageway to form new external steps from lower ground floor to upper ground floor level; erection of new external steps from lower ground floor to garden level at the rear of the property; installation of a new window at lower ground and second floor level to the side elevation; demolition of the front boundary wall and erection of a new brick wall with railings on top, new brick piers and a pedestrian entrance gate to the front elevation.

272 - 276 And 278 - 282 Wandsworth Bridge Road London SW6 2UA 2015/03434/FUL
Installation of 4no. Juliet balconies at first and second floor level on the rear elevations of 272 - 276 and 278 - 282 Wandsworth Bridge Road following the removal of the existing metal staircases.

Kensington Olympia Station Olympia Way London W14 0NE 2015/04307/ADV
Display of 1no fascia sign with internally illuminated lettering and 1no. non-illuminated fascia sign to the front elevation of the building (Amended description).

Kensington Olympia Station Olympia Way London W14 0NE 2015/04305/FUL
Change of use of the former ticket office and news agent into a new Class A1 retail unit and a Class A5 noodle bar (both 24 hours of operation); installation of a new shopfront and an ATM machine to the front elevation of the building; associated external alterations (Revised drawings)

358 North End Road London SW6 1LY 2016/00983/VAR
Variation of Conditions 21 and 22 (car parking permits) of planning permission ref: 2013/03637/FUL granted 11th October 2013 to allow the benefit of a parking permit to be reallocated from Flat 3 (2nd and 3rd floor levels) to Flat 1 (basement and ground floor levels).

67 Lysia Street London SW6 6NF 2016/00961/FUL
Erection of a front roof extension.

Flat Ground Floor 46 Fabian Road London SW6 7TZ 2016/01019/FUL
Erection of a single storey rear extension to the side of the existing back addition; alterations to the rear fenestration at ground floor level to include installation of new sliding folding doors; excavation of the front and rear garden to form lightwells in connection with the enlargement of the existing basement.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK)
FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING

65 - 69 King Street London W6 9HW 2016/00966/FUL
Installation of a new shopfront.

65 King Street London W6 9HW 2016/00967/ADV
Display of 3no internally illuminated (letters illuminated only) fascia signs and 2no double sided internally illuminated (letters illuminated only) projecting signs to the front elevation.

ARK Conway Primary Academy 60 Hemlock Road London W12 0QT 2016/00688/FUL
Erection of a new portacabin on top of the existing portacabin for a temporary period to use as classroom accommodation; formation of an access ramp to the ground floor portacabin, erection of an external staircase from ground floor to first floor level to the western elevation of the portacabins.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **3rd April 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13

104 Askew Road London W12 9BL 2016/00851/FUL
I give notice that Mr Steven Abraham is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of a rear roof extension; conversion of the existing flat into 1 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats.

41 Radipole Road London SW6 5DN 2016/00557/FUL
I give notice that Mr Martin Manhussen Schwab is applying to HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL for planning permission to carry out the following development: Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at third floor level on top of the existing back addition; erection of a rear extension to back addition at first and second floor levels; erection of side and rear extension at ground floor level; installation of French doors to the new terrace with railings to flat roof of rear extension at first floor level; excavation of front and rear gardens to form light wells in connection with the enlargement of the basement.
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **3rd April 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: NIGEL PALLACE
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services
on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website:
www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the Planning Home Page.
You can also E-mail comments to:
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You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office **RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6** between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.
If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

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Closing date: Friday, 18th March 2016.
Interview date: w/c 21st March 2016.

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Rampant Rangers up for capital gains

LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

THE first back-to-back victories of Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's 19-game reign, only two defeats in a dozen games, a rare local derby success and west London pride restored. Spring has finally sprung in Shepherd's Bush.

Speaking after Saturday's emphatic 3-0 home victory against near-neighbours Brentford, a delighted Queens Park Rangers manager Hasselbaink said: "It was a really dominant performance. We were organised, we showed quality and we were very, very impressive in parts.

"I was just as pleased with our performance without the ball as with it. That shows me we are making progress and that the boys are taking everything on board.

"It was a great win for the fans of this football club."

And how the long-suffering supporters have been made to wait for their capital gains. QPR finally succeeded in winning a London derby at the 17th attempt, having lost the previous meeting of the teams at Brentford, in addition to home and away defeats by Fulham and a loss at Charlton.

Put things right

Hasselbaink added: "We had a point to prove to ourselves after Fulham. We spoke about it at length and we were all so determined to put things right.

"We knew how important this game was for the fans, for the owners, for everyone connected to the club – but it was just as important to the players. You could feel the energy of the boys and the energy from the stands.

"The fans were our 12th man – they pushed the team forward. I was very happy with the application of the players and the fans."

Junior Hoilett's superb solo effort – QPR's goal-of-the-season – gave Rangers a 1-0 lead at half-time before two second half goals in a five-minute flurry from Sebastian Polter and Tjaronn Chery crowned a scintillating showing from Hoops.

"We scored three lovely goals," said Hasselbaink. "Junior's was a wonderful finish. He is really performing well, with and without the ball. His work-rate today gave him and the team the platform to score the goals.

"Polter deserved his goal – it was a lovely pass and a good finish."

Chery deserved his man-of-the-match award and is clearly relishing the key No.10 role which allows him to maximise the space behind the forceful, though at times awkward-looking, Polter, an archetypal centre-forward.

Enjoying role

The Dutchman has now scored eight goals in 19 starts for R's since his summer move from FC Groningen.

"Chery is enjoying himself in that role he is playing and he took his goal superbly.

"It was a really good day for us," Hasselbaink added.

QPR fans will revel in this one-sided victory against, it has to be said, probably the poorest side to visit W12 this season. It came four days after the 2-0 home win against Derby County.

"It's been a good week for us at Loftus Road but we still have so much more to do," continued Hasselbaink.

"We were fired up today and that really came across in our performance.

"But we need to keep improving. We need to keep getting better. But that will take time. We want to finish the season as strongly as possible."

Rangers' third consecutive victory at Loftus Road without conceding a goal leaves them 11th in the Championship table, nine points off the play-offs with nine to play, and in good heart ahead of Saturday's visit to Preston North End, who are one place above.

■ JUNIOR Hoilett scored QPR's goal of the season Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, March 19
CHELSEA v West Ham United, 3.00
Birmingham City v FULHAM, 3.00
Preston North End v QPR, 3.00

■ NO JOKE: Slavisa Jokanovic knows his Fulham team have to fight harder to stay in the Championship after another poor defeat Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Whites must fight

■ **FULHAM from back page**

There are signs that Fulham lack stamina as well as powers of concentration when you consider the fact that they have surrendered their greatest number of goals (16) in the last 15 minutes of matches.

As usual, Scott Parker gave his all but was too easily beaten by Pack before his shot from 20 yards levelled the scores after Luke Garbutt had given the ball away. Michael Madl's reckless lunge led to the free-kick which produced City's winner, although keeper Andy Lonergan didn't cover himself in glory either by twice being beaten by shots from outside the penalty area.

Obligation

"It's not acceptable," says Jokanović, "but our obligation is to start thinking about the Birmingham game. This game is done and I say sorry to the Fulham fans. They push us and they try and help us and we didn't give them enough today for their support.

"In the next game we need to be brave. I don't want to think about relegation, everything is in our hands."

Five of Fulham's last nine games are against sides in the top 10.

It was the second time in four days that McCormack had scored at The Cottage and still finished up on the losing side. A week ago, he netted in the 3-2 defeat by league leaders Burnley, for whom Andre Gray's winner keeps him three goals ahead of the Fulham striker at the top of the Championship goals chart.

"I could see it coming," a deeply frustrated McCormack told Fulham's official website, www.fulhamfc.com. "We sat far too deep in the second half and let them into it. Instead, we should have carried on doing what we were doing in the first half, when they didn't have a sniff. Second half, it's the usual Fulham . . . we were in control and threw it away.

"We've been in a fight for weeks," continued McCormack. "As it stands now, it doesn't look too good for us so it's vitally important we start picking up wins. Next week is Birmingham away – a very good side – but it's vital we go there and try and get something, as we need a result. It won't be easy but it's in our hands and we need to show character.

"You can only say we've got a good enough team for so long. It's about time we started showing it."

Terry joins Bonetti and Harris

■ **CHELSEA from back page**

"I hate to lose, of course, but if you see the difficult situation, if you see where we have come from in December, there was panic. Panic is a big word, but there was a lot of sweat. The wrong sweat on the forehead. That was what I was asked to do as soon as possible (get away from the relegation zone). And if you can get more . . . to the FA Cup final and Champions League as well, that would have been marvellous."

Hiddink refuses to believe his job is done and Saturday's match against West Ham is a case in point.

"We will go on until the end of the season in May," he said, "because I am proud to have the opportunity to work within this big club. I'm very pleased that they asked me, so I will give my best to the team and the club."

■ **THE worst week in Chelsea's recent history overshadowed the fact that skipper John Terry returned from injury to notch up his 700th appearance for the Blues in the 2-0 defeat against Everton on Saturday.**

Terry, who made his Blues debut in a League Cup tie against Aston Villa in 1998, joins an elite group of two – Peter Bonetti and Ron Harris – who have played 700-plus games for the Stamford Bridge outfit.

He came off the bench to replace Kenedy with five minutes to go at Goodison, where he was sent up front to try and score.

■ **PSG are believed to be preparing a summer bid for Eden Hazard and Thibaut Courtois.**

Hazard has had a poor season, which has not been helped by injuries that the club have not rectified, claims the player's father Thierry.

According to sources in France, he said: "Eden's lack of form is due to an injury, an inflammation in the hip, that he's been carrying for three or four months.

"It's not a bad injury, it feels like a stabbing, like a knife in it.

"He was feeling the pain early in the game against Leicester City in December and that's why he asked to be substituted.

"Instead of giving Eden time to overcome the injury and have a proper rest, they pushed him to play because they have important games, so he had no choice.

"It's the first time in his professional career that he's confronted with a difficult period. He is not a machine."

Chelsea are expected to have a summer clear-out, possibly including other established players like Oscar, who is wanted by Italian giants Juventus. Diego Costa has been linked all season with a return to Atletico Madrid, while loanees Radamel Falcao and Alexandre Pato could return to their parent clubs.

Striker Loic Remy is far down the pecking order and wants to leave, while Pedro has struggled to adapt to the pace and strength of the Premier League since his transfer from Barcelona.

■ **CHELSEA Under-18s did what the first team could not at the weekend, by beating Everton at Cobham.**

Dujon Sterling scored the only goal which has kick-started the elite phase of the young Blues' Premier League season following the 4-3 loss at Manchester City last week.

Paul Lagan

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 ● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427

■ DIEGO Costa in action in Blues' last meeting with West Ham Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Costa fracas adds to misery

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

GUUS Hiddink talks like a man who has everything under control but, frankly, he is overseeing a club close to meltdown and the visit of West Ham United to Stamford Bridge on Saturday is only likely to increase the despair that hangs over the club.

Hiddink has won only three home games since replacing Jose Mourinho in December, including FA Cup ties against League One side Scunthorpe United and a seriously under-strength Manchester City. The only Premier League win came against relegation-haunted Newcastle United.

Now, in a calamitous four days, the champions have been dumped out of the Champions League by Paris Saint-Germain and capitulated to an ordinary Everton on Saturday in the FA Cup quarter-final.

To add further insult to injury, Diego Costa shamed the Blue shirt with an undisciplined and bullying performance that resulted in him getting sent off for the first time in Chelsea's colours.

Having already received a yellow card, the Brazil-born Spain striker reacted petulantly on 85 minutes to a challenge from Gareth Barry.

Costa got up from the ground, confronted the veteran midfielder with a chest-bump, quickly followed by a meeting of heads, before moving his mouth down to Barry's neck.

Less forgiving

Perhaps realising how incriminating that would look, Costa then put his arm round Barry as if to say, 'Sorry, mate, I didn't bite you, let's forget the whole thing'.

The trouble was that referee Michael Oliver was less forgiving and brandished a second yellow card to Costa, followed swiftly by a red.

Barry followed Costa off the pitch minutes later after receiving a second yellow for tripping Cesc Fabregas.

That Chelsea were already 2-0 down thanks to a brace by ex-Blue Romelu Lukaku only added to the frustration felt by the travelling fans that Costa had let them down once again.

Chelsea's hierarchy went directly into crisis management mode, something they have become expert at in recent years, with a club spokesman saying: "Diego spoke to club officials after the game and expressed regret over his reaction to the challenge from Gareth Barry that led to his red card, but Diego was also very clear that he did not bite him at any point during that altercation."

At the time of gong to press, the FA has yet to comment on the incident but if it's not in referee Oliver's official report, they have the option to charge Costa, should they believe that he did bite Barry.

Even if they don't find him guilty of that offence, the fact that a protesting Costa failed to leave the field immediately means that they could still level a charge against him.

With a couple of FA suspensions already in his locker, Costa could conceivably be banned for 10 matches, effectively ending his season.

As Hiddink enters the final months of his second tenure at Chelsea, he is quick to defend his volatile 28-year-old striker. Replying to suggestions that Costa is at times unmanageable, the Dutchman said: "In December, when I did not know Diego from the inside, I did feel that a bit. You could not approach him.

"But now when you see him, I would say that I have got sympathy for him.

"Nevertheless, I also talk about how we can control him. I have said many times I don't give any guarantee – he is not a machine but a human being – that he will not at one time explode again."

Hiddink agrees that Costa's constant struggle to achieve full fitness is a contributory factor to his on-field behaviour.

"And it also gives the frustration. He always wants to play. If you see him medically, maybe we should have said the Champions League match against PSG and the FA Cup would be difficult (to play in). Not because of a lack of fitness, but due to little injures.

"I could tell him not to play, but he is desperate to play and in this period he made the difference also. He made (scored) the goal against PSG, so it's a balance.

"I brought in some young guys, like (Bertrand) Traore, but they have to step up.

Hiddink is well aware of his striker's fiery reputation.

"During my spell here I haven't seen him go over the edge," he said. "Maybe this is the first time, in his frustration at not being totally fit. This is an accumulation of frustration – and then he reacts. The opponent also makes it a big theatre, if the opponent knows that you are vulnerable."

Hiddink's contract ends on July 1 and it's widely expected he will be replaced by Italian national manager Antonio Conte. So what condition will Chelsea be in by then?

"That is easy to ask but difficult to answer," he said. "In my position, I've being asked to be interim manager and I think it's not good for me to step on a path and put my footprint on it. The people who are in charge, they must make the analysis."

The current crop of players are presumably playing for their Chelsea careers, then?

"Of course, of course," he said. "First of all as a player, when you are playing at a big club, also a smaller club, you have to be proud to be there. It's a privileged situation. And every now and then, though not every day, my players should know that and act towards that. But they should show that they are worthy of playing in the Premier League and at a big club.

"When the finals come, then you don't have to talk about motivation, it is already there.

"But now, in difficult times for the club, it's always good to see who is standing up. For me, that is important, to see how they react in difficult times.

■ Continued on page 27

This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Fragile Fulham 'in trouble'

FULHAM head coach Slavisa Jokanović admits his team is "in trouble" after Saturday's gut-wrenching 2-1 home defeat by fellow strugglers Bristol City, which leaves the west Londoners fifth from bottom of the Championship and just a point above the relegation zone.

"It's disappointing for us and our supporters. We needed to go to war for the last 10 games and we didn't go to war today. We need to be stronger and show more fight, as we're in trouble," said Jokanović ahead of this Saturday's visit to promotion-chasing Birmingham City.

Ross McCormack put Fulham in front in the third minute with an exquisite angled chip at the Putney end, his 19th league goal of the season and third in successive games.

But Robins hit back in the second half, levelling through Marlon Pack before Lee Tomlin's free-kick won it with a minute left. Bristol City leapfrogged Fulham into 19th place.

"We started the game very well and played good football," said Jokanović. "We didn't control the second half. We started very confused and made many mistakes. They put us in big trouble with a simple push and we started to be scared at set-pieces.

"We played with a different mentality in the second half and without enough power. I tried to make some changes but they didn't do enough. We need to be men in this situation."

Results earned by the two sides immediately below them in the table also went against Fulham. Rotherham United – rejuvenated under their new former QPR boss Neil Warnock – showed the fighting spirit lacking at Fulham as they came from three down with seven minutes left to play to force a 3-3 draw with Derby County, while Milton Keynes took a surprise point from a 1-1 draw at high-flying Hull City.

Goal difference crucial

Fulham's far superior goal difference compared to the four teams beneath them could yet prove decisive as they enter the most critical phase of the season.

A section of the 20,316 home crowd booed the men in white off the field after their third consecutive defeat at Craven Cottage, where they have won only one of their last seven matches. Losing this 'six-pointer' was a huge blow that puts the club under great pressure.

Moussa Dembele wasted a fine chance to extend Whites' lead in the first half after being put clean through by Ryan Fredericks. The young Frenchman capped a sub-standard performance by showing his disgust at being replaced by Cauley Woodrow five minutes from the end. With precious seconds ticking away on another poor defeat, his slow, sulky walk to the touchline angered some supporters who now regret that his hoped for move to Tottenham fell through at the end of the January transfer window.

Jokanović admitted: "Our fans are unhappy. We're in a relegation battle, this is very clear. We're in trouble, it's evident."

The stats don't lie. Fulham have conceded more goals – 63 – than any other team in the second tier and kept only three clean sheets all season. Only Colchester United (84), bottom of League One, have let in more in the top five English divisions.

Even more alarmingly, Fulham have squandered 22 points from winning positions.

■ Continued on page 27

RAMPANT RANGERS STING BEES – page 27

Fulham Chronicle

First established 1883, part of the London Weekly News group | FREE | Tuesday, March 15th 2016

March

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